The Long Island FISHERMAN

25¢

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

APRIL 29th, 1976, ISSUE No. 15

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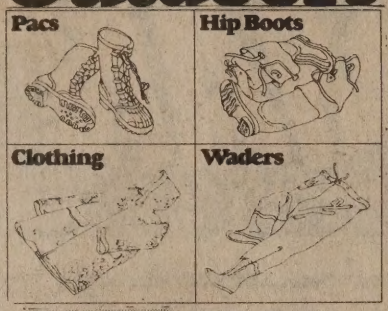
SPECIAL WEAKFISH ISSUE

Converse The Great Outdoors



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WHERE TO FISH WEAKS FROM GREAT SOUTH BAY SHORE

I am a subscriber to The Long Island Fisherman and always enjoy it. I would like to ask you a favor. Would you have information on the best places to fish from the shore for weakfish in the Great South Bay? I appreciate your kindness and thank you for anything you can tell me on this matter. **Joseph Layne, Bronx**

Our recently published book "Fishing For Weakfish" goes into considerable detail on this topic. In addition, we are planning a weakfish special issue before the upcoming weakfish season which will offer more information. Dr. Wm. A. Muller.

ROWBOAT RENTAL QUERY

Saturday, April 16th, 1976 we went to Seaford to do a little flounder fishing. We rented a boat from Salice Boat Basin. We started about 8 A.M.. While we were fishing we got tired and decided to move. We tried starting the motor but it wouldn't start so we rowed to the surf. My father went to call the place. Two men and a boy came to pick us up. When we got back to the station, Mr. Charles Salice (a very nice man) decided to give us a rain check, and we think that was very nice of him. How come other fishing stations don't give rain checks? *Charles Porcasi Jr., Hicksville, N.Y.*

They don't?

FREEPORT LAUNCH RAMP PROBLEMS

Spring has sprung and it is time for fishing. However launching a boat at Freeport Launching Ramp on Albany Avenue in Freeport has its limitations.

Since the spring of 1974, one of the floating platforms in the ramp has been out of commission. I have been trying to get the Village of Freeport to repair it since that time via telephone calls and finally by letter. I wrote Mayer Wm. White in October 1975 advising him of the condition of the ramp. Also, I reminded him that the Ramp was built with New York State Funds with the understanding that the village of Freeport would maintain it. This is maintenance?

I received a reply "No Funds". Such is the world of politics and politicians—Promises but don't ask them to full fill them. If the Mayor used that ramp I wonder how long it would have been out of commission?

With the State talking of increasing boat registration fees and licensing salt water fishermen, it would seem to me that the least it could do is to see that the village of Freeport lived up to its contractual agreement to keep the ramp in running condition. **Mrs. A. Kaminski, Roosevelt, NY**

POWER SQUADRON "ON THE WATER DEMONSTRATION."

On Sunday, May 23rd, 1976 at 1 P.M. the South Shore Power Squadron will conduct an "On The Water Demonstration" at the Wantagh Park Marina, Wantagh, New York which will be open to the general public.

This on the water demonstration is held with the cooperation of the Nassau County Department of the United States Coast Guard Safety Department.

We will have outboards, single and twin screw vessels demonstrating the proper technique for docking, undocking tying up, anchoring, rafting, man overboard and different fire extinguishers. All are welcome. No charge.

YOUNG BOATMEN'S COURSE OFFERED

A 4-session course for youngsters between the ages of 10 and 15 will be given by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary at the North Shore High School, Glen Head, starting Wednesday evening May 5th at 8 P.M. Those who complete the course will be issued the New York State Boating Safety Certificate which enables them to operate a motorboat on the State's waterways.

The Young Boatmen's Course is free to all boys and girls who are interested in either sail or powerboating. For further information call Flotilla Commander Vincent Prisco at MA 1-7254 or Vice Commander Arthur Leuck at OR 1-8287.

OUTBOARD SKIPPERS CLUB TO HOLD MEETING

The Outboard Skippers Club of the South Shore Power Squadron will hold its monthly meeting at the American Savings Bank, Modell's Shopping Center, Hempstead Turnpike and Newbridge Avenue, East Meadow on Monday, May 10th at 8 P.M. A talk will be presented by George Meade, a radio airborne traffic reporter. All outboarders and inboard-outboarders are invited to attend."

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VOLUME 11, No. 15 APRIL 29th, 1976

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Weakfish are off to a strong start in Great South Bay, so this issue will be a special on Weakfishing. Dr. William A. Muller and friend hold a nice string of weaks taken in Peconic last May.

Richard Reina
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EDITORIAL

Toxic Substances Act

"I am thoroughly disgusted by the gnashing of teeth, wailing and rubbing of hands! To the agencies which have the enforcement responsibilities, a word on behalf of the bewildered but concerned American people—get on with it!"

This was the comment of Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, and Parks in calling for the elimination of all sources of PCB's in the United States within three years.

One of the reasons why we are confronted with the contamination of the environment with toxic chemicals is that there is no definite mechanism for testing of new substances prior to their use. So DDT and other pesticides as well as PCBs are dumped into the environment for years before the hazard is recognized.

Therefore, effective action to control toxic chemicals is slow. In 1974, Environmental Protection Agency official, Alan Eckert in a memo to Meyer Scolnick, of the office of Enforcement and General Counsel recommended a careful investigation of PCB discharges from the Fort Edward and Hudson Falls General Electric Facilities. The study was urged to determine if a health hazard exists under the meaning of Section 504 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. (Audubon, November 1975.)

The investigation was conducted 8/19/74 at Region II E.P.A. laboratories. They concluded that if the populace ingested fish from this area that it would contaminate some of their tissues.

Effective action did not occur. In March 1975, E.P.A. Region II office stayed abatement plans for two plants of General Electric while they complained.

Also in 1975 a bill, The Toxic Substances Control Act (HR 10318, S3149) was introduced. The legislation would provide for prior testing of new products before their use, the control of the use of toxic materials, and the control of the production of the toxic substances.

Unfortunately, this legislation is still pending one year later. Why?

This is urgent legislation. It is at least as vital as the Swine Flu Vaccine legislation requested by President Ford. We say it is at least as important because the stakes are the same—human life and death.

Let us remember the Japanese experience. When rice was contaminated with PCB's, remember the skin lesions, the body decay, and the death of Japanese people who consumed the poison.

According to the Audubon Magazine (November, 1975); "The simplest solution to the PCB problem would be for Congress to ban the chemical, as Japan has done."

I'm reminded of a recent conversation with S.O.S. President Bob Rance. Until that conversation, I had been pretty cavalier about the striped bass that I consumed. There have been times in my life when I have eaten bass 5 or 6 times a week. He reminded me that PCBs have been noted to cause liver cancer in monkeys. I casually commented that the effects on humans were not necessarily the same and then he said it, and the words have been echoing in my ears every since. "Have you had your liver tested for cancer recently?"—

The solution to the PCB problem is vital, but it is only one of many toxic and dangerous chemicals in the environment. How many more toxic chemicals are already in the things we eat and live with and how many more are planned for the near future.

We at The Fisherman vigorously urge that the Commerce Committee give its immediate attention to the Toxic Substances Control Act and favorably report it out of committee to the House floor where we urge its swift and forceful passage.

Dulcie A. Nyuller

ATTENTION READERS!!!

On April 13, 1976, President Ford signed the 200-Mile Limit into law. But our job is still not finished...

Provisions in the law call for the establishment of eight (8) regional Fisheries Management Councils. The governors of the coastal states will nominate candidates for the council to the Secretary of Commerce.

The Long Island Fisherman has suggested to Governor Carey that he nominate our Associate Editor, Dr. William A. Muller to the council. Dr. Muller is a trained marine biologist and has published many scientific papers in his field. He also understands the interests of sportsfishermen and this combined knowledge should permit him to make unique and significant contributions to preserving our coastal fisheries.

It is obviously essential that sportsfishermen be represented on these councils. Therefore, we are asking the presidents of fishing clubs, party boat captains, and interested fishermen to write to Governor Carey urging him to nominate Dr. William A. Muller to the Secretary of Commerce.

If you agree with us that Dr. Muller would be an excellent choice please write to Governor Carey as soon as possible.

Good fishing...

Richard Reina
Publisher

Letters Should Be Addressed To:

The Honorable Hughes Carey
Governor of The State of New York
Governor's Mansion
Albany, New York 12224

Surf Side with Vito Orlando

Brooklyn Spring Bass Part II

Last week in my introductory article on Plum Beach, I had hoped to raise a few eyebrows. I mentioned the basics that are required to succeed at this area. This week I hope to add to this list and mention certain other items that you may find of interest.

Since the waters in which you will be fishing are rather shallow, the force and direction of the wind are two very important factors. When the wind comes from the north, northwest or west the fishing falls off. The breezes that blow from these directions slow down the flow of the small rip that runs between the two sandbars. Also the north or northwest if blowing for too long a period or with too strong a velocity, forces the bait to other parts of the bay. An east or southeast wind will bring in the seaweed which will interfere with the proper performance of your plugs. This is especially true on the second or third day of these winds. A northeast is very productive, as is the south and southwest. On a Northeast, the bait is forced out of the back of the bay and into the rip. At this time the current will be running a little stronger. South and southwest winds will create a slight chop which will help the angler to fool the fish. These winds will also keep the bait in the pocket that is formed by the two sandbars. (Try the Kastmaster when these conditions prevail.) A very gentle wind, regardless of the direction will usually not affect the fishing. As a matter of fact, very good results can be had with no wind at all.

Many of the regulars will agree that the larger fish will be caught in the morning. These fish prefer the calm and quiet that is associated with the rising of the sun. During the day and toward evening there is a great deal of boat traffic. At these times the larger fish are scattered as a result of the commotion caused by their motors. On the other hand, the reckless juveniles (schoolies) will not be frightened as easily. In spite of the noises, they will be ready and willing to take your offerings. This is an ideal situation for those of us who wish to spend a few hours fishing after a hard day's work.

One evening Steve Petri, President of the Farragut Striper Club and I were on our way to an eight O'clock appointment. Since we had an hour or so to kill, we decided to make a "few" casts at Plum Beach. The boat traffic was greater than normal that evening. By the time the tide ran its course, we collected 34 schoolies up to eight pounds. Needless to say we were late for our appointment.

As darkness moves in, the boat traffic will subside. At this time disregard the tins or poppers and stay with your swimming plugs.

Do not get caught on the sandbars when the tide turns. Check your watch every so often. This can be a difficult chore when you are into fish and especially true when fishing at night. (Did you ever notice that the tide always seems to come in faster during the dark?) I usually figure Plum Beach to be minus 15 minutes from Sandy Hook. Planning this way, I get a pretty accurate and safe description of the correct tide, and I know when I must leave the bar.

The phases of the moon do not alter the fishing. The only problem being that during a full moon period the tides are a little higher than normal. This variation must be compensated for and you should wait an extra hour before beginning to wade. When on the bar leave it no later than two hours after the turn of the tide. Be extra cautious when a full moon is coupled with a south or southwest wind. The water will rise faster under these conditions.

Contrary to popular belief, the fish that are caught at Plum Beach are not always natives of the Hudson River. I have tagged close to one hundred bass from this area through the years. I have received five returns on these tags. All five fish have been recaptured either in the Chesapeake Bay or surrounding waters. This finding prompted me to write to the American Littoral Society. They confirmed the results, and stated they are currently conducting a study of this migration pattern. Until this explanation, I could not figure out why Plum Beach bass did not arrive until mid May. Staying through the summer then only to disappear again in late September. I used to think that it was solely the result of changes in water temperature. It now seems apparent that these fish are in transit during April and October. Bass, as you may know, have a habit of returning to their birthplace to spend the winter and to spawn.

Although April and October do produce an occasional bass, it would not be worth your while to put in any great amount of time at Plum Beach during these months. In recent years, I have begun to fish here during the second week in May. As mentioned earlier, fishing will last throughout the summer and you can spend the doldrum days of August here with very good results.

While fishing at Plum Beach you will no doubt notice a few horse shoe crabs. You may even feel them bump your foot every so often. They are harmless and do not interfere with the fishing. "They would be permitted to live" and to "Do their thing".

I have done my best to introduce you to a new area that can be fished. All the variables and conditions that I have encountered have been mentioned. I hope that you will try it. I know that Plum Beach will offer you the same rewarding experiences that it has given to me.

Good luck and good fishing...

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FRESHWATER FISHING with Angelo Peluso

BASS SURVEY

In an attempt to provide the Long Island freshwater fisherman with up-to-date opinions relative to the state of bass fishing on the Island, I have prepared the following survey. The questions are structured so as to cover a broad range of bassin' concerns. If the readers of this column would be so kind as to complete the questionaire, the returns will be tabulated, and the results published in an article that will appear immediately prior to the opening of our 1976 bass season. There are a lot of excellent bass anglers in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, and I am certain that a composite of all opinions would be of great interest to all that pursue the largemouth and the smallmouth. Upon completing the survey, please send to me c/o The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, New York 11729.

1. How long have you been bass fishing?.....

2. How long have you been involved with bass fishing on Long Island?.....

3. How do you rate Long Island Bass fishing? Poor.....Fair..... Good.....Excellent.....

4. How do you rate Long Island bass waters as compared to other areas of the state? Equal to.....Better than..... .....Worse than.....

5. What is your favorite Long Island bass water? .....

6. How many times a year do you go bass fishing?. .....

7. What is your biggest largemouth bass&.....Smallmouth.....

8. What is your biggest Long Island Largemouth?.....L.I. Small-mouth.....

9. What percentage of your bass fishing time is spent on L.I.?. .....

10. Have you ever taken a legal limit of bass from Long Island waters?.....

11. Do you regularly take a L.I. legal limit? Yes.....No.....If yes, how often?.....

12. What do you feel is the average weight of a Long Island bass?.....

13. What bass fishing season do you prefer? Spring.....Summer..... .....Fall.....Winter.....

14. During which season do you catch the largest Long Island bass?.....

15. What time of day do you prefer to bass fish? Dawn.....Midday..... .....Dusk.....Night.....

16. What angling method do you prefer? Spinning.....Bait Casting..... .....Bass bugging.....

17. Do you prefer Casting..... Trolling.....or Still Fishing..... .....?

18. What is your favorite Top Water Lure?.....Mid-range..... and bottom lure.....

19. What depth do you find most productive for bass? 1-6 ft..... 6-10.....10-18.....above 18.....

20. What temperature range do you prefer (water temp.)? 55-60 degrees..... .....60-65 degrees.....65-70... .....70-75.....above 75..... .....

21. Do you prefer to bass fish on a clear day.....or a cloudy day.....

22. Do you prefer a slight wind..... or no wind.....

23. Do you look for specific "structure when bass fishing? Yes.....No.... .....If so, what type.....

24. Do you use a depth recorder as an aid to your fishing? Yes.....No..... ....a thermometer? Yes.....No.... .....', an oxygen monitor? Yes..... .....No.....', an electric trolling motor? Yes.....No.....

25. What size and type of boat do you prefer for Long Island bass fishing?..... .....

26. What would you like to see done for the betterment of Long Island bass fishing?. .....

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. .....

. .....

. .....

. .....

Name. .....

Address. .....

The more input that I am able to evaluate, the more meaningful will be the opinions. I sincerely feel that each and every one of us can learn from a fellow bass angler. Pick up a pen and fill in the spaces. I'm sure that you'll be interested in the outcome. Just tear out the form and mail to the address previously stated.

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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Advanced Weakfishing

Part Two

Last week we discussed the type of tackle recommended for weakfishing, particularly why it is important to use "light" rods and line because of the weak's tendency to tear a hook out of its infamously weak mouth flesh when too much pressure is applied by the angler and/or his equipment. In other words, if you want to know what was talked about in last week's column, read it.

This week we're going to go into the first important step to successfully catching weakfish—which is locating the weakfish to catch in the first place. As with all fish, they will be found where the food supply is plentiful. Being predators that feed on smaller baitfish, weakfish also have a tendency to seek out certain types of bottom formations for two reasons: the baitfish that the formation may attract, and the turbulence created as the moving current passes over or around the formation which tends to render the baitfish helpless, making them easy prey for the weakfish.

Let's look at the diagrams of the five primary bottom formations that attract weakfish. Each diagram is a cross-section of the bottom formation: the dark tint is the bottom, the lighter tint is the water. The insert in the lower left hand corner of each diagram shows how that particular type of bottom formation would appear on a nautical chart. It will aid you in finding the general location of potentially weakfish-producing bottom formations by studying a nautical chart for the local area you are planning to fish.

SLOPES. (Diagram 1.) A slope is simply a gradual increase in depth from the shallow water of the flats to the deeper waters of the bay. They are very simple to find by consulting any nautical chart—the shallow "flat" water of one to three feet in depth is identified by the numbers "1, 2, 3" with a light blue tint covering the entire shallow water area. When the water increases to 4 or more feet in depth, the blue tint is dropped and the depths are printed on a plain white background. Look for a gap of at least five or more feet between the depth readings on both sides of the blue tint. For example, the nautical chart inset shows the depth dropping from 2 to 10 feet at the edge of the blue tint, which means that in this area you would find a gentle slope as the water increased eight feet in depth. But don't go overboard looking for a "big" slope that may turn out to be almost a sheer cliff, thinking it would be a great weakfishing spot—it won't be. You want a nice, gradual slope of no more than a 45 degree angle.

Once you are actually on the water and have a general idea where to look for a slope, actually locating the slope is easy. You can use one of three methods: visual, electronic, or physical. If there is little wind, the water is calm and has good clarity, you can locate the slope visually simply by looking for the shade of the water to go from a dark to a lighter coloring. Rule-of-thumb: dark green water is deep, while clear white water with shells, snails, crabs, mussels, and seaweed clearly visible on the bottom is usually shallow. Sloped are found electronically with a depth sounder—nothing elaborate, an inexpensive flasher type depth sounder is more than sufficient for this purpose. As a last resort, a slope may be found physically by cruising around with a boat that has a three or more foot draft—when the boat comes to an abrupt, sudden halt, you have successfully found the top of a slope.

Once a slope has been located it doesn't necessarily mean you'll catch fish, naturally—current and wind conditions must be correct. When weakfish feed on a slope, they are preying on the small baitfish that are being swept off the flats by the moving current into the deeper water. Therefore, the weakfish will only feed on the slope when the current is moving from the shallows into the deeper water.

When the current changes direction, and the water moves from the deep water towards the shallows, the weakfish will leave for an area with better feeding conditions.

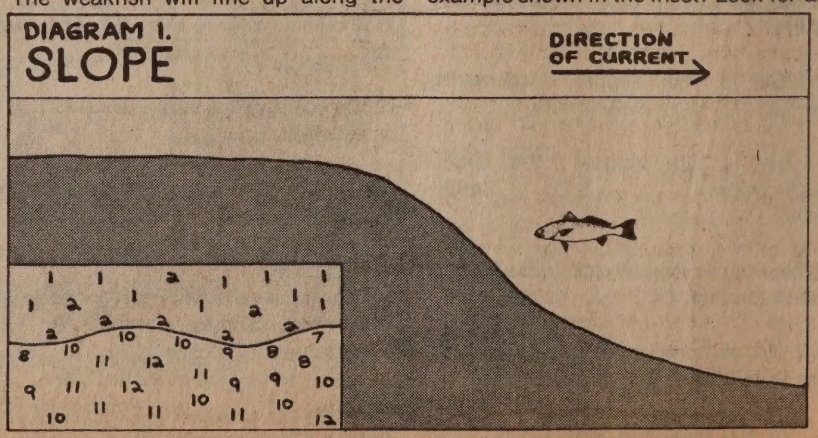
The weakfish will line up along the length of the slope facing up-current towards the top and shallow water beyond, because this is the direction they are looking for a baitfish to swim against the current, so you will never find a weakfish facing down-current looking down the slope. Why should they?

This is where wind direction comes in. If the current is moving in the correct direction, the wind must be moving in the same direction as the moving current. If a strong wind is blowing against the current, the boat may stand still or even drift against the current and you won't be able to work your lure in the proper manner.

Ideally, you want to start your drift in the shallow water and drift into the deep water so that you can walk your lure down the side of the slope.

SHOAL OR SAND BAR. (Diagram 2.). A shoal or sand bar is probably one of the most productive bottom formations in our bays for productive weakfishing. Simply a large mound of sand rising from the bottom due to shoaling conditions, a sand bar is actually a multi-sided slope with many advantages over a single slope. First off, the mound of sand will create a lot of water turbulence as the moving current changes direction to go over and/or around the obstruction. The weakfish will always lay on the down-current side of the shoal facing it, feeding on the baitfish caught up in this turbulence. When the current changes direction more likely the weakfish will simply move to the opposite side of the sand bar, which has then become the new down-current side.

The general location of sand bars may be found on nautical charts, as the example shown in the inset. Look for any

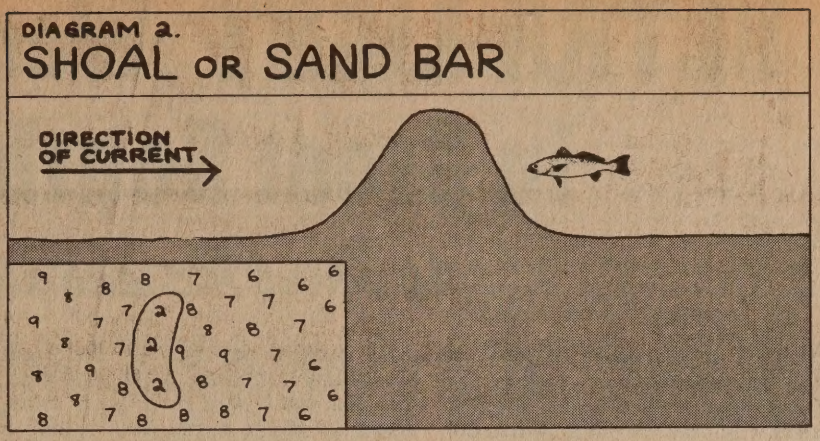


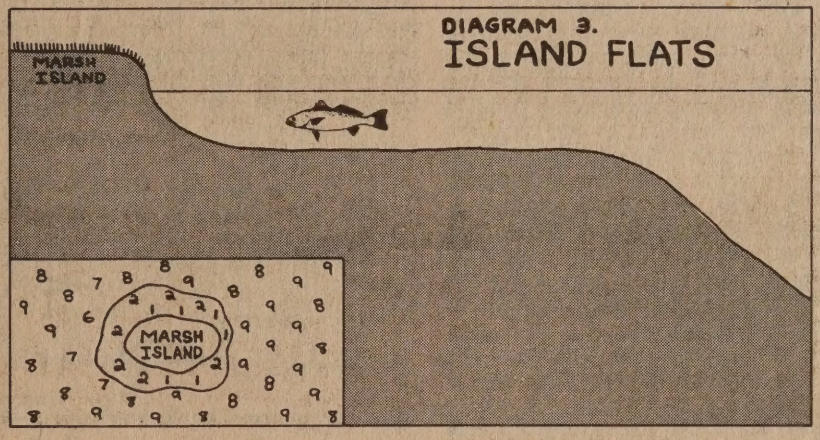
small round or oblong shaped blue-tinted area on a chart, which denotes a large shoal or sand bar surrounded by deeper water. To locate from a boat, look for a sudden light shade of water, or the tidal rips that are often visible on the water's surface directly above the formation.

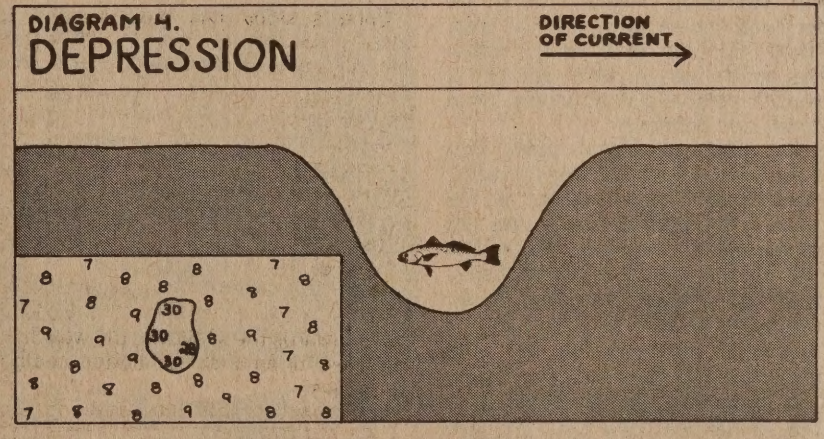
ISLAND FLATS. (**Diagram 3.**) The shallow flats usually adjacent to the marsh islands in the bays are excellent areas for weakfish, particularly the large "tiderunners" class. One of the reasons for this is the lack of fishing pressure - how many anglers with all their marbles would think of casting an artificial around in two feet of water? But it may not seem so ridiculous if you stop to think of the weak's diet for a moment. When feeding in the shallow bay waters, a primary component of the weakfish's diet is grass shrimp. Not sand shrimp or mud shrimp, but grass shrimp. My sister-in-law's husband's father (or, put another way, my wife's sister's husband's father) Stanley Meyer, was a bayman all his life until the weakfish suddenly stopped showing up years ago. Stan used to catch the sand shrimp in the then-cleaner waters of Jamaica Bay around the scores of marsh islands there and transport them out to the Peconics for sale to the weakfishermen. He told me that the shallow water around the islands would heat up much quicker than the deeper waters of the bay. There would be a distinct line around the islands where the water would suddenly get cooler, and for some reason the grass shrimp would hug this line. The baymen would use a one-man seine that they would push in front of them as they walked, keeping one foot in the warm and one foot in the cold water. So in all probability, the weakfish are also following this temperature line searching for grass shrimp to eat. This line can be in one foot of water or five feet of water, and 50 feet or a quarter of a mile away from the shoreline. So work over the entire area before giving up. The best tide to work the flats from a boat is incoming water, naturally, when there is no chance of being left high and dry by a receeding tide. Remember, the depth markings on a nautical chart are for **low** tide, so it is possible to get into areas that are only marked a foot or two with a shallow-draft boat. Lift the engine and pole yourself along with either a boat hook, oar or your friend's new fishing rod.

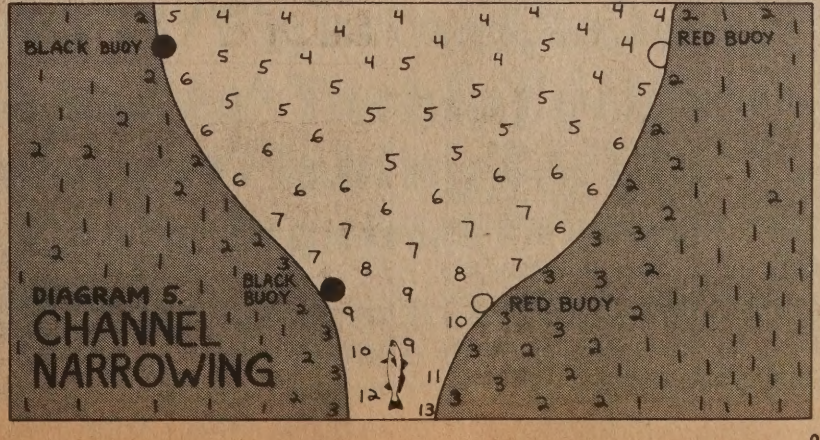
One of the greatest fishing areas I have ever found for weakfish is the large stretch of flats between buoy 4 off Heckscher State Park and West Fire Island. On any calm night in May and early June, the weakfish come up on these flats by the thousands. It is not uncommon at all to see pods of three to

(**Continued on page 46.**)









ULTRA-LIGHT Weakfishing in Great South Bay

by Paul Rosendahl

Too many people seem to think of weakfishing exclusively in terms of the giant tiderunners. Nobody can say that they aren't a great fish to go after, but they aren't always so easy to get at. Even if you know where they are, you may still have problems. During the summer of 1975 for example, the big weaks in my area were out in force in Chapel Hill Channel, in the southern approaches to New York Harbor. Most of the action was at night, and so available only to those with their own fishing machines, who didn't mind fishing in a main ship channel. Another problem with going after the big boys is that the action tends to be spotty, a feast or famine sort of situation.

For the average skiff fisherman like me, a more reliable and available type of weakfishing can be found in the waters of Great South Bay, especially the area around Heckscher Park. There are several good fishing stations in the area, but their facilities tend to be rather limited, so it's best to call in advance if you want to reserve a skiff, especially on weekends and holidays.

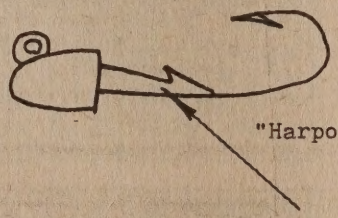
To my mind, ultra-light tackle provides the best fun when fishing this area. During most of the year except for the first run in the spring, the weaks are moderate sized, running about 2-4 pounds on the average. Using heavy tackle on fish this size is no sport at all, but take them on with an ultra-light rig and you're in for some real fun. The waters in this area have very few snags, rocks or other underwater obstructions, so when you get a fish on, you don't have to be afraid to let him run. My normal rig is a 5½ foot fast action rod and a Garcia #308 ultra-light reel. The two spools are filled with 4 pound and 6 pound test mono. I find that ¼ ounce is about the right lure weight, but this will vary with other rigs. For blustery weather or fishing at anchor, a conventional spinning outfit makes a good back-up. Ultra-light tackle is always a sometimes thing.

One of the main factors to take into account for successful use of really light tackle is the wind. If the wind picks up too much, your rate of drift becomes too fast, and you can't get a ¼ ounce lure down to the bottom very easily. The usual weather pattern over the Great South Bay produces quiet mornings, with the sea breeze picking up somewhere out of the south about noon. To avoid the stronger breezes, I try to be on the water at first light. This gives several hours of quiet fishing most of the time. What you really pray for is just enough wind to produce a slow, steady drift. In general, the tides don't seem to matter very much, probably because of the fairly uniform water depth and very weak tidal currents.

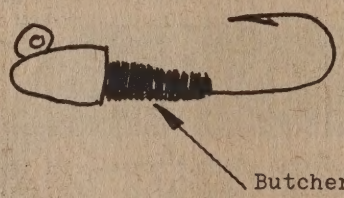
It's always worth trying the general areas recommended by station operators or clammers—they're in close contact with the latest action. To locate a school of weaks, try pulling a drift and casting

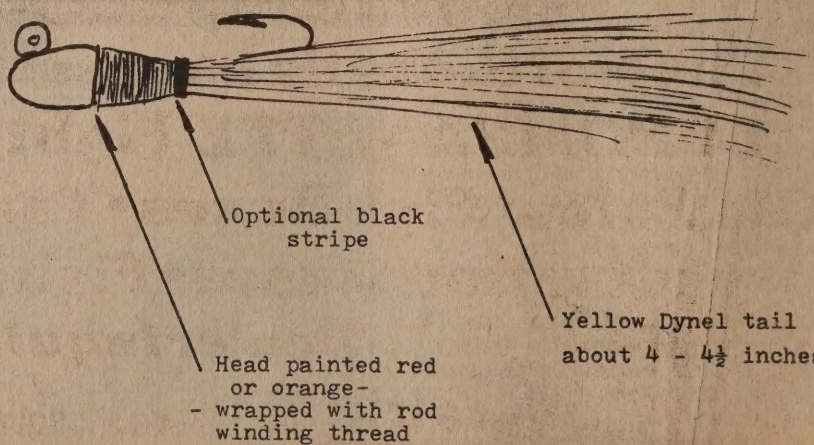
HOW TO MAKE LONG-TAILED BUCKTAIL

(1) Salty Dog body with plastic tail removed



(2) Shank wrapped with twine and varnished





NOTE: this sketch show the approximate actual size for a ½ ounce lure.

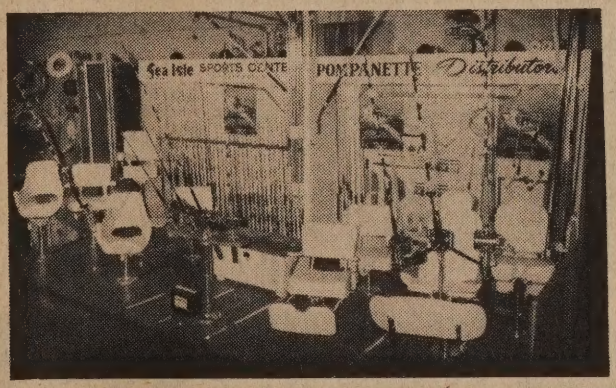
wide to either side until you hit the first fish. At this point, toss a marker buoy over the side. This doesn't have to be anything fancy. I use a bright-colored antifreeze jug anchored with heavy mono to a 12-ounce sinker. Continue your drift until the action slows down, then go back and pull successive drifts past your marker. To cover a wider area, make each drift maybe 50 or 100 feet to the side of the previous one. If you have a small motor, it's best to raise it out of the water each time you stop. This avoids the chance of getting your line wrapped around the lower unit by a frisky weak. Even a small weak hits with a rush, so be very careful not to set your drag too tight—a really long run can always be checked with finger pressure on the side of your spool. Good net work is important. A too-small net or a clumsy oaf handling it will cause a lot of lost fish. I always try to net my own, thereby avoiding harsh words and possible mutinies.

A number of lures will take weaks on ultra-light tackle, but the most effective one I've ever used is not available in local stores. This is a bucktail with a red or orange bullet head and an extra long tail of yellow Dynel. I bought one years ago in Florida, but have been unable to find one since. My friends and I have found that this long bucktail outfishes all other lures on these weaks, sometimes by a margin of nearly 2-1. Don't ask me why. While it can't be bought, it's a very easy lure to make. I make mine from Salty Dogs (minus the plastic tails which get chopped off by snappers) or similar lure bodies. The shank of the hook is wrapped with ordinary butcher's twine until the "harpoon" part is covered. The twine is then soaked in varnish and allowed to dry. Then the tail is wrapped on, making sure that it is long enough—about 3½ inches for the ¼ ounce head, and longer for larger heads. As with any bucktail, it should be tied directly to the line, and not have its action diminished by snaps or swivels. A strip of squid to "sweeten" the lure is a must—don't expect decent catches without it. A slow, jerky retrieve along the bottom seems to work best most of the time; however, if the fish are feeding near the surface, a fast, high retrieve is needed. On most days, you'll get a bonus of kingfish or small blues, both of which readily take the long bucktail. In fact, if the kings have any size to them, you may come to regard them as the main quarry, since they put up a game fight and are exceptionally good eating.

If the wind picks up too much and your drift becomes too fast, the best bet is to drop the hook and switch to heavier tackle. Under these circumstances, true ultra-light tackle is not at its best. The amount of weight needed to get a lure to the bottom is enough to overpower your rod and make it unresponsive. However, a regular spinning rig with about a 1 ounce lure still works pretty well, and you can always use a high-low rig baited with long strips of squid. This is the one-time rig for weaks, and it will still take its share of them, as well as the occasional porgy, eel, fluke, sea bass or what have you. In this way, you can still get some good action even if the weather isn't at its best for ultra-light gear.

A note on squid—the stuff that you get from the bait shops is often grossly over priced, and is no better than what is sold in fish stores and supermarkets. I usually buy the 3-pound frozen packages and defrost and prepare it the day before I go out. This way, no valuable fishing time is wasted in cutting bait. One of the 3-pound packages should just about do it for three men for a day, but any extra can always be salted down (lightly) and used again. Another thing to remember is that weaks are a soft-fleshed fish and spoil easily. To preserve that great flavor, ice them down the minute they're caught.

This type of fishing is really special—it provides all the thrills you could ask for, yet is easily available and the cost is within almost anybody's reach.



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THE SHRIMP JIG

by Herb Buch

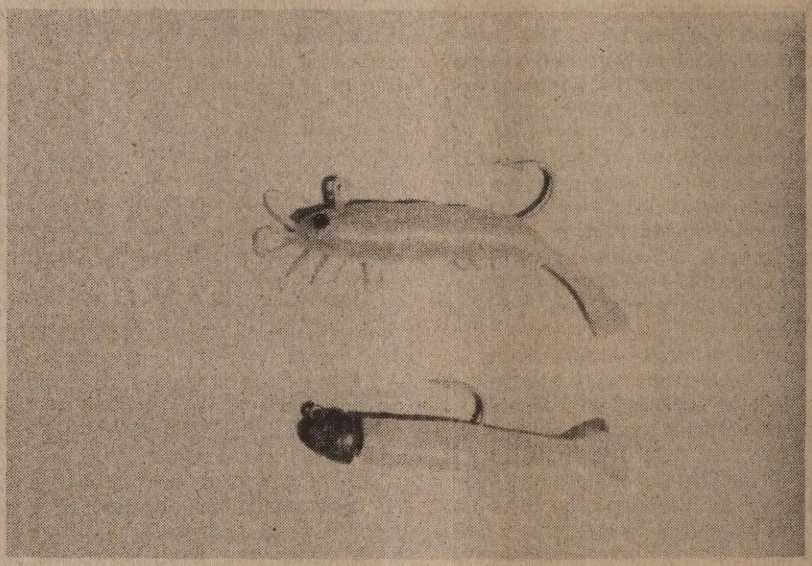
One of the hottest lures to hit Long Island in recent years has been the shrimp jig, popularly known as the "salty dog" after the Bagley lure of that name. This class of lures is not new but the resurgence of weakfish in our waters led to a skyrocketing of its popularity since it is very effective on the weaks.

They have been used in the south for many years. To the best of my knowledge, the shrimp pattern was preceded by the grub style, which not only has been a very effective salt water lure, but has recently become very big for Black Bass in fresh water, as well as for other fresh water fish.

The plastic tails come in various sizes to go with heads of different weights. The head weights vary from about one sixteenth of an ounce, which goes with a tail of the size of our common grass shrimp, up to over an ounce for jumbo tails. The most popular size in our area has been a lead of about three eighths of an ounce, plus the tail that goes with it. The total weight is about a half ounce. This could be considered the standard size in local waters. Surfmen and jetty jockeys have been using the jumbo tails on one ounce heads. This size can also be used to jig in deep water. The similarity of the midgets to local shrimp makes them very attractive to the fish when they are feeding on small bait. They can be used as a dropper lure about sixteen inches above a standard jig, and I have found them most effective this way, often producing double headers. In the south, many fishermen use the tiny jigs in pairs, one tied as a dropper above the other. Two of them may provide enough weight so that you could cast them with your outfit.

My best luck has been had with the flourescent pink shrimp on a pink head in the standard half ounce size. These lures became standard equipment on the Captree boats because they really produce. They produce just as well for me from smaller boats working the waters of Great South Bay, or casting from shore along the State Channel near the Captree Bridge. In addition to these pink shrimp, I always carry a few amber and purple models which have produced well for me in the evening.

If you want to get weakfish in Great South Bay during the summer and early fall, the pink shrimp will produce all through the day, if you can locate the fish. My procedure is to locate a drop off from a sand bar or the edge of a channel,



Molded on shrimp and replacement tail type.

and while the boat is drifting slowly, cast the lure from the shallow water into the deeper cut. Let it sink to the bottom and then retrieve it in short, slow hops. It is a good idea to let it drop back to the bottom periodically as most of the fish take the lure right near the bottom. When you take a fish, keep repeating the drift that was successful because the fish usually travel in schools. The edge of the channel near buoys 28 and 39 southwest of West Sayville have been productive for me.

I usually use eight pound test line and tie the line directly to the jig. After fishing for awhile or after several fish, cut off the head of the line and retie the jig. I do not use a swivel or a snap because I want the lure to look as natural as possible. In late summer and early fall the weaks may be scattered over the relatively flat bottomed part of Great South Bay between Sayville and Patchogue, and out in the middle of the bay. At such times you must drift and cast until you locate a productive area. Try not to bang or scrape the bottom of the boat as this usually stops the weaks from biting at that spot and may limit you to one fish on that drift. A good way to beat this, since you can't help some noise once you land a fish, is to have your partners cast their lures alongside the fighting fish. Several weaks often follow the fighting fish on the line and they do not hesitate in striking when another lure is offered. This technique often produces two fish or more instead of a single. A good place to try is the wake of a dredge boat. Don't get too close as these are work boats and it is your responsibility to stay clear, but cast your lures into the disturbed water behind them.

When bluefish are around they will grab the same pink jig as the weaks. They however, are more likely to tear and cut it beyond future use. If I run into a school of blues I change to a Hopkins or a spoon. If I run into a lot of snappers I

Jumbo and Midget jigs and a standard tail.

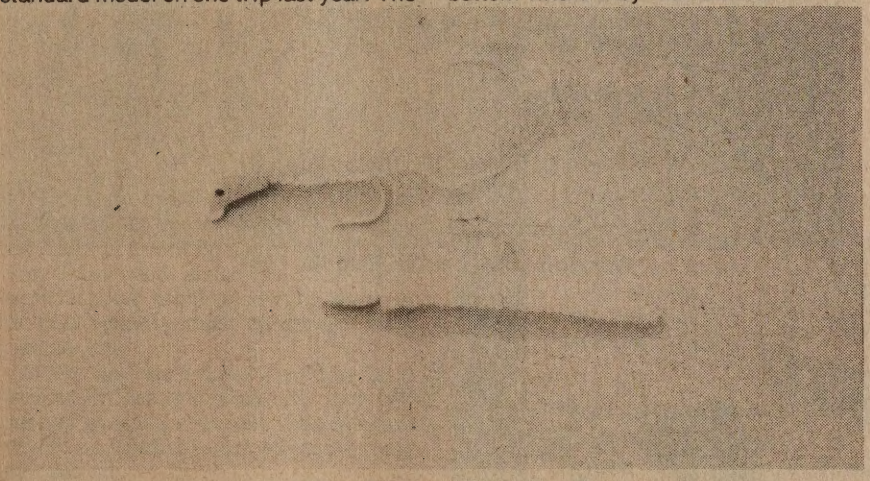
just move the boat because they tear the lures to shreds. Weakfish very often pull the tail almost off the hook, or shake it around so much that it will not stay in position. This suggest that it would be a good idea to carry a package of extra tails. At least two companies have tried to overcome this destruction of the tails by molding the body right over the weighted head of the lure. Lupon and Garcia both turn out tough, easy casting models of this type.

The standard lures with separate tails installed on the heads are turned out by several southern firms; Bagley, Boone, and Mann, and also by a Long Island firm, Viking. Each company produces the common version of the lure and also at least one speciality. Boone has round plastic tails called "touts", in addition to the shrimp imitations.

The round versions cast beautifully when you need distance. Mann produces a round version with a different kind of tail called a Sting Ray grub. These not only come in different colors, but in different flavors. You can actually smell the fruit flavor additives. I have had fish favor one of these flavored tails over a standard model on one trip last year. The latest type is illustrated by the Mister Twister grubs, which have a thin curved tail which vibrates rapidly in a swimming motion as you move the jig through the water. These come installed on a head, and usually with a couple of spare tails in the package. They really look good to me, but I could not say that they catch any more fish than the standard models on the basis of my present experience.

During the fall I often see these lures from the beach or jetties at Jones and Fire Island Inlets. If I have to cast far or if the wind is bad I use the one ounce size, but I really think that the lighter models produce more hits. One interesting sidelight is that fish very often hit this lure at night so lightly that you think that you have picked up a weed or hung a rock. If your hook is really sharp, a light pull will tell what it is. If it is a fish, it will start to swim, then set your hook hard. If it is a weed or a rock, either reel it in or shake it loose.

This lure works both day and night, and it takes weaks, blues, stripers and almost every other fish in local waters. Don't just carry them in your bag, swim them, jump them, or drift them near the bottom where they look natural.



Mister Twister jig and tout jig.

Grub, Tou, Twister, and shrimp tails.

PECONIC BAY WEAKFISH

Part II- East of Robin's Is. to Jessup's Neck

by Dr. William A. Muller

Last week, in Part I, I discussed where to fish for weakfish on the west side of Robin's Island and in the North and South Race. The bulk of the fishing pressure on the weakfish comes in these western portions of the bay.

However, there are a few spots to the east that warrant attention. During the years of the last great weakfish run the names Rose Grove and Jessup's Neck held almost magical qualities when applied to Peconic Bay weakfishing. There are, however, many things that are different about the current run of fish. To mention a few: the average size of the spring tide-runners is larger, the run of summer fish is poorer, and the best fishing is found around Robin's Island and slightly west of the Island.

I feel that the major reason for this change is the altered distribution of the available bait and the dominance of different species of bait such as sandeels. Gone are the hordes of squid which filled the bay in the spring. The sandeels and spearing prefer the more shallow areas whereas the squid prefer the water cold and deep!

When the tide-runners first returned around 1970 there was a period of adjustment for the fishermen who had to familiarize themselves with new weapons such as limber spinning rods and plastic shrimp, as well as the new habits of the yellowfins.

In recent years Rose Grove just isn't as productive as it once was. However, there are times when the fishing is very hot. There are two ways to approach this area. The first involves fishing up on the sand flats in depths of 15 to 20 feet. Although lures, such as plastic shrimp, Whip-Tails, Bingle Lancers, bucktails, and tins, do produce here, the most consistently producing technique calls for squid or sandworm baits either still-fished with the use of heavy chum or allowing the boat to drift across several miles of bottom. When you locate the school of weaks toss over a marker buoy and make repeated drifts through the zone until the change of tide.

The second area where local weakfishermen like to try is the ledge just south of Nassau Point. A depth recorder is almost essential to locate the ledge but it is possible to find it using shore ranges. Line up the buoy at the southern tip of Nassau Point with the White House on the Point. Run south ¾ of the distance

Weakfish may be taken from the bank...

or from small skiffs in Peconic Bay.

between the buoy and the imposing sand cliffs on the Southampton side. The water is fairly deep and there is a noticeable current. Most anglers prefer to use bait and chum with squid pieces from an anchored boat.

Jessup's Neck has been the home of some monster weakfish over the years. I lost a fish at the boat last year on the west side of the Neck while fishing with whole squid that made everybody "Oh and ah." Well, that's history but those huge tide-runners will be there again this year, and I plan to try again.

The waters around Jessup's Neck changes in character quickly. The bottom drops off to ninety feet in some places within the straight line distance on less than a half-mile. The same rapid transitions are noted with the currents. Calm shallow water becomes steep turbulent rips as the flood waters of Great Peconic and Little Peconic rage through this restricted passage.

In recent years the best weakfishing at Jessup's has occurred later in the season when the run around Robin's Island had diminished. The fish begin to look for cooler water in late May and/or early June and the deep channels at Jessup's provide these cooler temperatures while serving as an excellent feeding area when baitfish schools become helplessly tumbled in the rips.

Although both tides produce, I have found the incoming tide to be best. Pink or yellow Jig-n-Shrimp are great here but plastic shrimp score as well too. The best area on incoming water seems to be west of the black gong buoy. The water varies in depth but 20 to 35 feet seems to be the depth that produces most consistently.

Night fishing around Jessup's is a favorite of local sharpies and they will use bait almost exclusively. Squid, grass shrimp, sandworms, and mackerel slabs are favored.

Diamond jigging has increased in popularity during the last few years at Jessup's Neck. This approach works best when the fish hug the bottom and when the speed of the drift is slow enough so that the jig does not lag too far behind the boat. The action of the jig should be as nearly vertical as possible.

As an added bonus Mother Nature has thrown in some absolutely huge fluke. These doormats wander into the bay and set-up housekeeping at about the same time as the weaks. The flatfish "hang out" in the deep water around Nassau Point and Jessup's Neck. Most of these surprise doormats have been fouled by diamond jigging. The fluke have ranged in size from 9 to 18 pounds—so beware! If you latch on to "a piece of bottom" that doesn't quite feel like the bottom you may have a doormat fluke. Be patient!

In part III, next week, I'll discuss weakfishing around Shelter Island.

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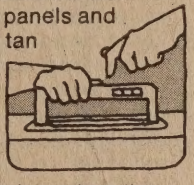

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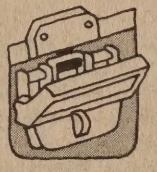

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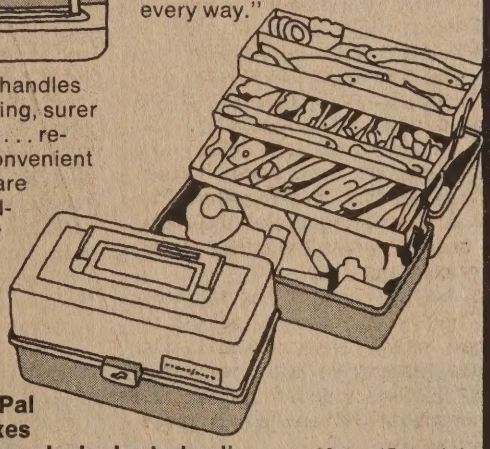

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BASS FISHING with Capt. John DeMaio

How To Fish A Bridge For Bass

Part I by Capt. John DeMaio

You can fish a bridge for many other species, but who cares. Why put a hunk of bait on a hook in hopes of catching some bottom feeder. That's for the beginners. Striped Bass is it! Why anything else. Fish a bridge correctly for bass and the weakfish and blues come along also. All exciting top water fish. All can be caught casting a bridge.

If a general was waging a campaign against his enemy and preparing for battle, the first thing he would do is look over the battlefield, and so it is with the angler and a bridge. Know your bridge. Best thing to do is pick a bridge that you know has a colony of bass there and fish it steadily. The following are the basic factors to watch when selecting an area.

Deep water! A bridge that offers a deep channel is very good. Some have multiple channels and shallow areas also. This is even better. Pilings that protect the supports from ice flows are helpful. Aprons, or bumpers (also called fenders), that line the channels to absorb collision shock from large vessels navigating thru the channel, are also a plus.

Strong tides are important. More so than deep water. As I go deeper into this article you will understand why strong tides are to your advantage.

Not as important as the two previous paragraphs, but positively worth mentioning, are bridge lights. Lights create shadows. Shadows are used cleverly by bass to catch bait. Powerful lights can help diminish phosphorus problems if they exist.

Besides applying this information to a bridge, it can also be for railroad tracks as well. Anything that spans a body of water and has supports going into the water will do. Marine growth is important. The growth attracts bait life that hold bass in the area. Docks, piers and even ferry slips can hold bass. A bass will swim most anywhere. Don't neglect a bridge because you think it too small. Perhaps too much traffic or pollution. Nonsense! I have seen large schools of bass under small bridges. For instance! The last bridge on Robert Moses Causeway, before Captree has bass. At least it did about 10 years back. A friend was taking me out fishing one night in that area. The outboard gave us trouble so we cancelled out the boat and tried an attack by auto. He knew of a parking area near the bridge and close to several summer homes. When we arrived at the bridge (under it, you're not allowed on it) fish were busting inside the channel fender and slightly out of reach. I ate my heart out as the fish cavorted for hours. Finally I managed one on a super cast, for a boat rod. Had we had the boat, they would have been all ours.

A bridge at the mouth of an inlet is ideal. Bass can move in from the ocean and back again all in one night. Or, as a favorable tide takes them. Any bridge close to an inlet will usually have a strong flow of tide. Four bridges that fit into this description are the Marine Parkway Bridge near Rockaway Inlet, The Atlantic Beach Bridge at the Far Rockaway Inlet, the Causeway Bridges around Jones Beach Inlet and the Captree Bridge at Fire Island Inlet. There is a bridge close to Shinnecock Inlet which I have never fished. But have driven over it several times. It looked good to me.

One item is a must. You must fish at night. Todays traffic will run you down in the daylight. Especially casting. You need room. Bass are nocturnal feeders anyway, except when schooling for migration or migrating. So fish at night. My advice would be to learn your navigating to and from, during the daylight. Also the ins and outs of the bridge. Night fishing is tough enough. To explore and fish at the same time, at night is difficult. Try not to.

Night fishing can be very rewarding. Not only in the catch, but the peace and quiet that goes along with it. Hopefully. Sometimes the jerks are out at night. One thing to remember, in the dark you may be able to see the nearest boat, but you cannot see them catch. This is to your advantage. You can be knocking the jock off the fish and not get crowded. What more could you want. Remember, night fishing can be tricky without experience. Habit takes over in the dark. Just stick with it and a sense of feel will give you the confidence required for night fishing.

A big plus in fishing the bays is the lack of phosphorus. Unlike the ocean, where the 'fire' will hurt your fishing, the bays can be fished at all phases of the moon. And don't forget daybreak. That magic morning hour can be dynamite.

Avoid the use of lights. If you insist on a flashlight, use it only when necessary. Never burn a Coleman lantern all night long. Strictly for amateurs. Be careful of the running lights also. When approaching your fishing spot turn off the lights and come on unnoticed.

Besides fooling the competition you must fool the fish. Make your approach quietly. When the tide is in your favor, drift in softly. If you must power your way into an area, give at least 20 minutes for the bass to settle back to normal and continue feeding. Never bang against a support or bumper. This is worse than running the engine. A loud noise such as a boat bouncing off a fender, echoing under a bridge, is strange to the fish and will tend to spook them.

Please do yourself a favor, leave the portable radio home. Commercial society is a drag to begin with. Why anyone would want to take it with them is beyond me. Not only is the radio unnecessary but harmful. Many a great nights fishing was due to my hearing a fish break water off in the distance. A radio blasting out the top 40, and an endless amount of sick news, would have prevented that. So who cares what John Denver has recorded of late. Or what politician has been accused of bribe and extortion. Leave it all home. Positive concentration and a few bass tugging at the line can keep your mind off the commercial world.

Most bridges are off limits to fishermen except by boat. So obviously, "How to fish a bridge" is written for boat fishermen. Of course, if you're on the bridge, the same methods will apply. This brings about the boat. If you have a new glass boat, look out. Bridges are

notorious for protruding bolts, barnacles rough concrete, tar, and an endless variety of sharp piercing objects. Just eager to tear up your boat. Wooden boats are best for this type of fishing. You can replace the rub rail on a wooden boat. A 16 foot skiff, (standard size in small boats) with a 20 h.p. outboard is ideal. An old, beaten up boat, is perfect. Something you don't have to worry about. A boat this size would be able to handle any bad weather you may encounter. If caught in a blow, and the way home does not offer a course that can put you in the lee, beach the boat. Preferably by a road. Find a cop or whatever and hitch a ride. Don't be a hero, or a fool.

On such a boat, night lights are required. Many battery operated, (flashlight size batteries), running lights are on the market. Most of the inexpensive ones will corrode within one season. With the help of a little C.R.C., maybe two. Buy the cheap ones, you are better off.

Unbeknown to the daily fisherman, many a sharpie are taking bass at night and keeping it quiet. Maybe not as good as some years back, but still catching. Most likely these 'night riders' are slipping by in garvey hulls painted flat gray, without lights. Catching the last of the tide in one spot and then charging off into the night to pick up the flood elsewhere. Experience is what motivates them. So must you gain the experience that is needed. Be persistent. Plug away at one area. Don't be like so many of those trailer jockeys that travel the headlines. You will end up a day late and a dollar short. Expecting to duplicate the catch of a charter boat, or in a strange area that you read about, is silly. Most likely that man has fished there for a great many years. What the hell do you think you can do, match skills on a Sunday outing? You may have the skills, but a knowledge of the area is mandatory. For the price of a tank of gas and a thermos of hot coffee you can have a good fishing trip near home with your own boat. From Brooklyn or Bayshore, you can make your stand. Always remember, so called good fishing is relative to the area. A catch of 3 bass in one area may be considered sensational. Elsewhere it would take 30 bass to turn a head. The grass is not always greener as you know where.

Do not let headlines or big scores spoil your catch of several fish. That attitude can be carried to no end. I have seen fishermen, with a catch of 200 pounds of bass and in great spirits, get shot down at the dock because the guy next to him had 250 pounds. The same with charter boats. A party returning home and feeling good with 40 bluefish have their day ruined because the charter boat next to them had 44 blues. Please don't let greed take the 'sport' out of sportfishing. Be content and be happy.

Placing all the methods and tricks on fishing a bridge into categories, clearly defined, is too difficult. I will write it as I remember it. If I overrun, or run on in the train of thought, please bear with me.

As for the tackle. If you have read my other articles on casting, you know I prefer conventional. Here, once again, conventional tackle is important. In fact, as you read along, you will see where conventional gear is a must. Tight fishing areas will demand the need of strong lines. A socked-up drag in many instances is the only way you may be able to boat a fish.

And yet, spin tackle can be extremely useful at times. The ability to cast a very small lure is always to your advantage. When the situation permits, try it. The bass may be feeding on grass shrimp moving by with the tide. Use a tiny lure. Do not use any diamond jigs or tins at nights. Plugs are not effective around a bridge unless the fish are up, or you're fishing shallow water. Small eel skin lures are terrific. The variations are endless. Always try to use a straight moving lure. Dark colors will often work better than light ones.

Some years back, when you were able to fish off the Causeway bridges, the sharpies used a lure made with blue chicken feathers. Do not get nervous for blue chicken feathers. Try the old bucktail and pork rind. Assorted weights will certainly help.

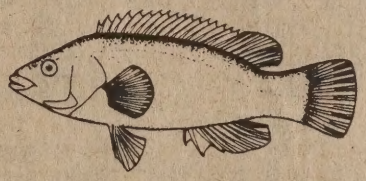
Casting crosstide. This can be done on both sides of the bridge. By both sides I mean the up-tide side, and the down-tide side. On the up-tide side, anchor the boat ahead of the bridge in open water. How far ahead depends on the depth of water, strength of tide, and how you perform the following.

Cast the lure off to the side of the boat, or parallel to the bridge. Now retrieve slowly allowing the lure to "sweep" around. Try to have the lure pass close to the bridge supports when sweeping back on the retrieve. Most of the fish will be tight to the poles. Get in close.

If a shadow line extends out beyond the bridge, (ahead of it) try sweeping the shadow area. Allow the lure to enter the dark from the lighted area. Bass will very often stem the tide in the dark and catch the bait coming at them from the light. So make your lure do the same.

Speed of retrieve and the weight of the bucktail head will determine what depth you are fishing. Try the top to the bottom. Hanging up the lure on the bridge or the bottom is very common when you begin. After some time you will find yourself placing that lure close to the supports as the lure sweeps by. Be prepared with a good supply of lures when you start.

Take notice of where you anchor. Many bridge areas have underwater cables. Also, when constructed, the bottom areas can be strewn with building materials that were dumped during construction period.



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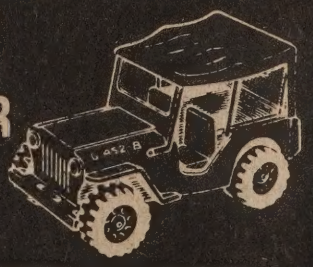

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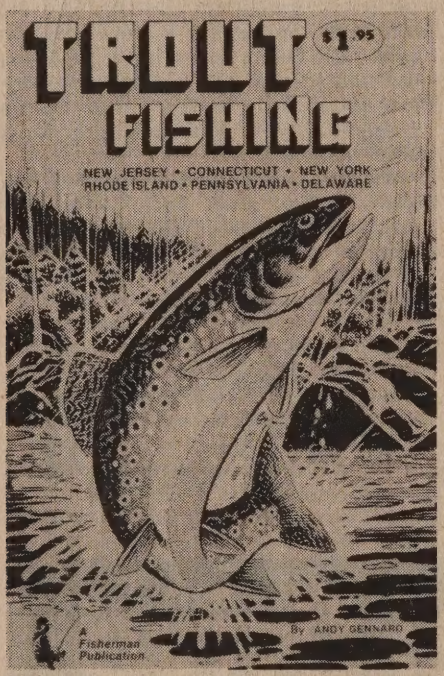

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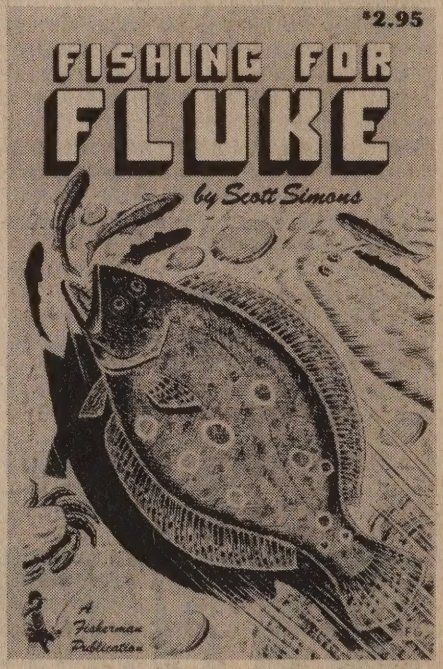

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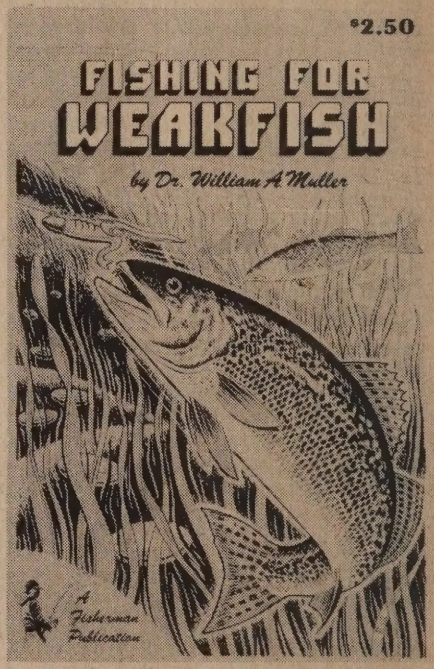

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

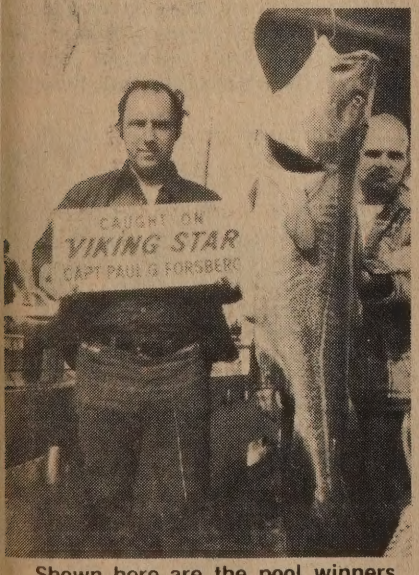
MONTAUK

Capt. Warren Hader of the charter-boat **Devilfish** called to tell us that there is a real mackerel bonanza taking place at The Elbow for those anglers interested. On Saturday, 350 tons of macks were taken and on Sunday the score was over 600 pounds. All were taken on mackerel trees. Warren also told us that the cod and pollack fishing was excellent during the week but slowed down considerably on Saturday for reasons unknown. No reports of snowshoe flounders yet.

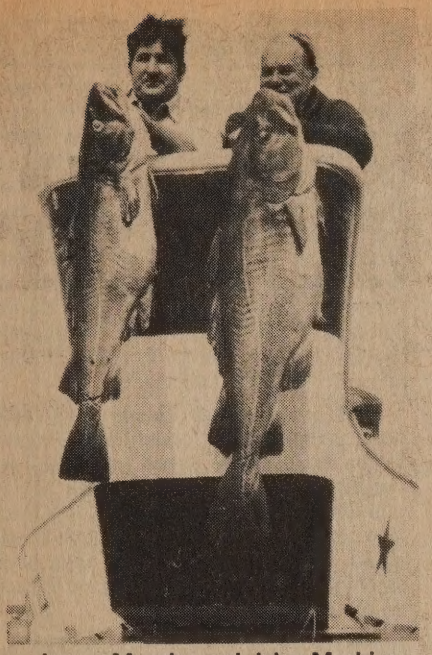
Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that the fishing at Block Island has been "hotter than a firecracker." Early in the week anglers were going home with an average of 200 pounds of cod and pollack in their bags. Saturday's fishing was slower.

Capt. Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported that the cod and pollack action was "super good" on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday but went sour on Saturday. Except for a brief 15 minute flurry of pollack, the super fishing of earlier in the week died to a trickle south of the Point. Sunday was also a disaster with both the weather and the cod and pollack. Dick managed to bail the day out with the blackfish at Cartwright.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Helen H**



Shown here are the pool winners aboard the Viking Star, Domonick and Joe Colonna. The two brothers caught a 64 and a 42 lb cod along with many 20 lb. fish.



James Murphy and John Mashica are shown here with their catch aboard the Peconic Queen III.

confirmed the downturn in the action on Saturday but said it picked up on Sunday southeast of Block Island. Mixed bags of cod, pollack, and blackfish are being taken in the area, and mackerel are in thick off the Point. Brad told us that his "20/20 Special" ($20 per head, maximum 20 anglers, reservations only) is sold out for May 15th, but there are still a few openings for this weekend. Call for reservations.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** told us that they are open for business now and the Bumblebee did a good job on the codfish at Sharks Ledge last weekend. They took 100 cod up to 30 pounds on Saturday and 50 cod up to 40 pounds on Sunday.

This past Monday, Capt. Les Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** called to say that the Queen had just come in with over 600 big pollack 15-20 pounds, and that jimmy Behan who had been running the boat had marked fish 50 feet thick on the recorder. This was off the southeast grounds of Block Island. The fish were taken on 6 and 8 ounce diamond jigs, by most of the 70 men aboard. Those who did not have diamond jigs caught cod on the bottom.

PROMISED LAND

Generally fair flounder fishing said Art at **Promised Land Fishing Station**. It slowed off Acobonac but held up at the fish factory and at Cartwright. The fishing is mostly with mussels and catches of up to 20 per boat have been had. Flounder are larger than last year and approach 3 pounds or better. One that was caught on mussels at the fish

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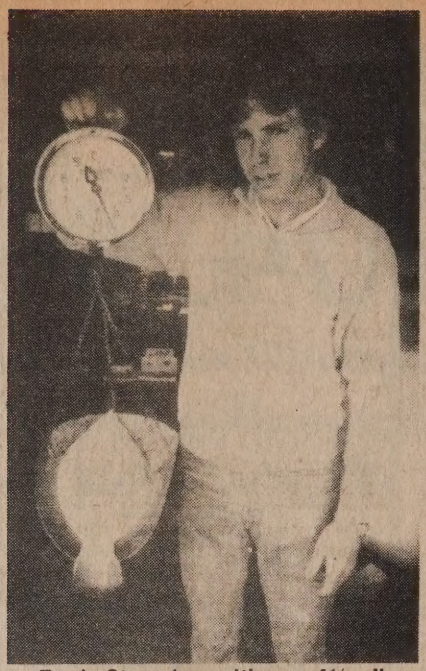

Fred Stransky with a 4½ lb. flounder taken off the Promised Land Fish Factory. Photo courtesy of Promised Land Fishing Station.

factory weighed in at 4½ pounds. A few blacks, while flounder fishing. These fellows were mostly 4 to 8 pounds.

SAG HARBOR

Noyac Marina informs us that this was their first week of the season. Jersey fishermen Ed and Bill Kistner and Joe Maraszlek fished the Ferry Slip and took 34 flounder up to 2¼ pounds with mussel baits and chum. At buoy 16 Joe tried for weaks with a Pink Salty Dog tipped with squid and he nailed a 7½ pound weak.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Jr. of the **Capt. Clark Boats** reported that the flounder fishing out their way has been very good right along. Sunday's fishing was down a little in the high winds but was still good. Thursday and Friday was excellent, and the flounder now seem to be showing a preference for the bloodworm as bait. Best areas are still off Indian Island in Flanders Bay and also off South Jamesport. Clark also said he expects the weakfish and large porgies to start biting in the next two weeks.

Fred at **Altenkirch Tackle** said there were weakfish being caught in the canal. When the locks are closed you should try casting shrimp touts. One weak of 4½ pounds was taken on them. Cows Neck also has weaks but there you have to use squid. The beach fishermen have been catching small keeper sized striper bass on alou-eels.

HAMPTON BAYS

Skipper's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing until Friday at buoy 17 and the Greenlawns. Saturday and Sunday was a bust. On Friday, Wayne from Brooklyn had 78 flounder at buoy 17.

Big Mike at **Skippers Fishing Station** told us the **Scamp III** went out with six men on Saturday and in an hour caught over 1000 pounds ob mackerel.

Franks Fishing Station reports very good flounder fishing at buoys 17 and 18. These 1 to 1½ pound fish are taken on a moving tide using bloodworms with mussel as bait and chum. Some catches to 80 or more fish have been had. Mr. Coari, a regular at the station, took 130 flounders on Saturday.

Walter, Mathew and Cookie Bohnenberger with 19 flounder they took from one of the Promised Land skiffs. The flounder weighed from 3lbs. to 3lbs. 7oz. Photo courtesy of Promised Land Fishing Station.

MORICHES BAY

Tadsen's Fishing Station informs u that there are big fish in his area, but ha you must work for them and search the out. For those willing to do this, th flounder action is good, especially a buoys 29 and 32 and off the Brow House.

Al Lassen at **Hi-Way Fishing Statio** said they had a real good Saturday. Mr. Payne who was the first one out an the last back had over 200 flounder. H fished buoy 43 area with worms an mussels. On Sunday the wind brough the catches down.

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station reports weak fish at buoys 12 and 17 on red and whit Salty Dogs. Local sharpshooter Capt. Bi Stiriz had them 3 to 6 pounds, 35 i number taken two hours on each side o the high. A few fluke were taken on Slat Dogs also, just over 14 inches. The hol at 17 and the edges of the flats should b

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Bill Czech, Dennis Kelly and Bill Connors all from Queens with 36 flounder 1 to 3½ lbs. taken in one of the Promised Land skiffs at the bouy 7 area.

Jerry and Genie Greensher and Marty and Marilyn Tams caught these 68 flounder weighing about 1 ¼ lbs north of bouy 42 on bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

worked. Flounder has slowed, with Moriches buoy 42 your best bet. The flounders locally have been a little spotty. A 3 pound striper was taken at buoy 19 in Saturday's dawn on a white Whiptail.

WEST SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station tells us that Basil Bliss started the week off with 45 flounder taken off buoy 16, Ocean Beach and Point O' Woods. Good catches have been taken at Water Island, average 50 per boat on bloodworms and an outgoing tide. Sizes are mixed up to 2 pounds. Flounder action tapered off with the weekend.

Marty at **South Bay Fishing Station** tells us happily that weakfish have broken loose on incoming tide, drifting between buoys 4 and 5 with pink Salty Dogs working best, fish 6 to 6½ pounds. Drifted bloodworms are doing the job also. The channels between buoys 28 and 29 are producing flounder. Kingfish are in the bay taking clam baits.

Dick at **American Sportsman Shop** reports weakfish 4 to 7 pounds heading Salty Dogs tipped with squid at Ocean Beach, roughly 2 to 12 per boat. Flounders require heavy stirring up of the bottom, about 20 minutes worth off the Pines, Nichols Point and Heckscher.

BABYLON

Babylon Fishing Station tells of weakfish at West Channel, where Dickersons and West Channel meet on shrimp lures. Buoy 13 area of Ocean Beach is also producing on shrimp jigs, as is Snake Hill Channel, weaks 5 to 7 pounds. Four keeper fluke were taken in the State Channel off Babylon Cut on Squid Strips. Flounder are to be had in the flats, at the Coast Guard Station on worms and mussel chum.

Mario at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** reports that his skiffs have been doing a fair job on the flounder, with some doing very well. On Thursday, Charlie Griffin took 2 weakfish out of Dickerson's Channel on Salty Dogs, and others have been seen in skiffs and private boats taken from the Dickerson's Channel area. Monday through Wednesday there were good flounder catches at Grass Island, off the sea plane hanger and Good Sam. These were good sized fish, roughly 12 per boat taken on worms and mussel chum.

Capt. Dennis Frederick of the charter-boat **Flying Dutchman** reports 24 people out on Saturday on his boat for a catch of 250 flounder of mixed sizes on worm and mussel chum, taken just south of Sextant Island on outgoing water in a fast two hour pick.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Fishing Station reports the incredible news that Long Island staffer Fred Guardineer on April 19th, came in with 24 big flounder all from 1½ to 1¾ pounds taken on bloodworms and clam chum in one of Fred's Great South Bay hotspots.

Duke's Tackle Shop reports flounder fishing is still touch and go but very good quality and quantity at the Sore Thumb and off the Fire Island lighthouse on sandworm and mussel chum being a mus for quantity. Bob and Ken Sailor of Copaigue on Saturday morning, had 12 weakfish boated and dropped 10 using pink Lupo Shrimp on outgoing tide at Ocean Beach. These fish were 6 to 7 pound class. Sabina Winters bagged a 10.8 pound weakfish on a plastic shrimp at Ocean Beach, causing husband Bob to turn green with envy. Nick Russo of

Neil Eisenberg and Arthur Solop with 95 flounders they caught on bloodworms and mussel chum east of bouy 44. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

West Babylon along with an 8.1 pound weak on Saturday managed to subdue a 19½ inch long squid, on a plastic shrimp. Mackerel is excellent S/S/E of the F.I. Inlet in 70 to 80 feet of water. Various private boats bagged 3 to 400 macks on Friday and Saturday both. Tom and Tony Pavone took 80 macks in two hours up to 3 pounds. A few fluke are being taken on flounder rigs which promises an interesting fluke season to come.

Bullet skipper Jay Porter informs us that an additional boat is on order, 87 foot and it should be up here in about 6 months and going strictly for blues. This new aluminum rig will join the **Bullet Fleet**. The original Bullet will bounce between Long Island and Florida in the winter, for long ranged trips to Nantucket, the Hudson Canyon and the Baltimore Canyon and when in Florida will sail to the Dry Tortugus and Marquesas Key. While here, both boats will sail from that super duper port of call, **The Anchorage** in Lindenhurst.

Capt. Bob Fischer of the **Lazy Day II**

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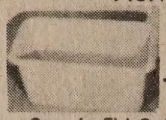

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had charters out on Friday and Saturday, in local spots, and bagged 12 flounder per man averages on bloodworms and clam and mussel chum.

CAPTREE

Capt. Blum of the **Capt. Jib V and VI** reported that the flounder fishing was good all week in the mussel beds and the hole off South Beach. The mussel beds are north of the "hole" and just five minutes from the dock. Weakfish are in very good around the Ocean Beach area, and the Jib Fleet has started running three trips daily for the tiderunners. The Jib V will sail at 8 A.M. and both boats will make an afternoon trip, leaving the dock at 3:30 and 4:30.

Capt. George Roman of the **Captree Queen** reported fantastic flounder fishing anywhere from Democrat Point to Point of Woods. Nice blackfish are mixed in with the flounder and a 7¾ pounder took the pool on Thursday. The flounder are hitting on both tides and there hasn't been any real pattern. The flounder fishing has really bounced back since the Easter Holidays and is now the best of the season. Weakfish are being taken by the private boats off Ocean Beach.

The **Capt. Joseph Fleet** will have a boat running for the mackerel starting this week while the other boats concentrate on flounder. Best areas were South Beach, Kismet and the "hole" between the Lighthouse and the Coast Guard Station. The flounder were pretty good on Wednesday and Tursday and fair on Friday and Saturday. Fish are hitting through both tides but at erratic stages. Quite a few short fluke are also being taken accidently with the flounder so there must be a large body of fish moving into the bay.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Lady Ann** went for mackerel on Saturday and eventually located a large body of fish 2 miles southwest of the Fire Island Fishing Reef. The fishing was hectic with Ed Quick scoring as hi-hook with 85 mackerel in his bag. On Sunday the flounder fishing was slow all morning until noon when a large body of fish was located between the Lighthouse and the wreck buoy. ABout 300 flounder were taken in the last 2½ hours of fishing there. The fish were of real good size with 4 or 5 over 2 pounds and the average about one pound. Kenny, one of the mates on the Lady Ann, tried the weakfish on Saturday from his Boston Whaler and scored with 35 fish in 4 feet of water by the sand bar at buoy 12 casting pink shrimp. Neil told us that they also had 2 kingfish on Sunday. Last year the best flounder fishing took place during the month of May, and the way the fish are acting now it looks like May is going to be the big flounder month again this year.

HOT NEWS FLASH!!!!!Subscribers Artie, and Larry Frederickson called in that they had two good catches of fluke on Saturday and Sunday in Fire Island Inlet. They caught a few sea robins that they cut up into strip baits and took 12 fluke on Saturday, six of which were keepers. They returned to the same area on Sunday and repeatred with 7 more fluke. All signs point to another great fluking year. Let's just hope that there is a higher keeper/short ratio this year.

OAKBEACH

The Store reports some heavy weakfishing at Ocean Beach. Friday saw Mike Sentoff, Ken Higgins and Jordan Cohen fishing an ebbing tide with Salty Dogs took 19 weakfish up to 8 pounds and on Saturday morning, took 26 weakfish to 12 pounds, all on white Salty Dogs. Lots of mackerel at the bell buoy came in over the weekend. Good blackfishing on Saturday along with flounder, flatties to the tune of ten to fifteen per man. Big sand eels are in stock. 20 fluke including 6 keepers were taken from the Oak Beach area this past week. The water is loaded with sand eels and sea robins.

On Wednesday while having an early breakfast L.I.F. staffer Mike Z saw the first fluke of the season taken at Oak Beach. A flounder fisherman, Paul from the Hicksville Post Office cast out into the rip and using an extremely small hook picked up a fluke of approximately two pounds.

EAST ISLIP

Don at **Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle** reports weaks at Ocean Beaches buoy 12

Robert Beck of Huntington Sta. with his first three flounder of the season. The flounder were taken off Heckscher State Park and weighed between 1 and 2 pounds. Subscriber Club Photo.

on shrimp jigs and Tri-Fin Whiptails, both pink and white. High slack was best time. Also Heckscher's buoy 4 has been producing 5 to 8 pound weaks. A few fluke off Ocean Beach at buoy 12 have been taken also, on shrimp jigs. The flounder activity is spotty.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports a lot of weakfish at Ocean Beach and at the Copaigue Hole, every day for the last few days. Per boat average is 13 to 17 weaks going up to 7½ pounds. The small Hopkins 1 and 2, are working well at the Copaigue. Pink and amber shrimp lures are doing it at Ocean Beach. Fair catches of blackfish on worm tipped flounder rigs are being taken. Lots of mackerel east of the inlet in 70 to 90 feet of water. Flounder has been good all week at the Amityville Cut, West and Squaw Islands on bloodworms and mussel chum. Saturday morning saw a surf caster at Democrat Point take 25 short and 4 keeper fluke on both killies and squid. Jonas is not stocking up with killitons of killies.

George Combs Bait and Tackle says its weakfish...weakfish...weakfish. William Sprawl of the Babylon Tuna Club nailed a 12.12 weakfish on a Salty Dog at Ocean Beach on Saturday, with the average being 6 weaks per boat. Unqua Point, the East West Channel are producing weaks of 5 to 7½ pounds on the Viking Amber Salty Dog and hi-low rigs with sandworms are working as well. A few have been taken at West Island on squid strips. George weighed in, now get this, a 4 pound flounder taken by Atlantic Anglers member Mark Caufmann, taken at Squaw Island on a mussel bait. Good flounder activity at Zach's Bay and West Island. George says he will have fiddlers and shrimp for the weekend.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports a good start on the weakfish for the season. Anglers Pete Gattust of Massapequa and Al Trama of Hempstead were out mackerel fishing and stopped off at Gilgo in the State Channel Saturday and nailed a 4½ and 5½ pound weak on shrimp jigs, casting blind. Flounder activity is fair to good, with 3 to 80 flatties per man depending on where he is fishing and his skill. Squaw and West Islands, Florence Beach and Four Corners are producing flounder. Bank fishermen working F.I. and Jones Inlet have been getting a few keeper fluke, though not many, indicating that these fluke are swimming in. Sandworms, Lonny says, have been working as good or better than bloodworms when the latter is not available, for flounder. Nine out of ten flounders surveyed, have admitted that when they are hungry "a worm's a worm."

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station reports that 110 flounder came in on one boat on Saturday and many of the boats had fair to good catches. The Massapequa Cove and Alhambra Beach if chummed heavily with mussels will produce good flounder action.

Captain Clarke of the charterboat **Hustler** fished Florence Beach for 70 flounder up to 1¾ pounds on bloods and mussel chum on the last of the incoming 'till just before slack in a 30 foot hole.

Nassau County Cop Paul Dodge called to tell us that he and 3 buddies were out on Captain Clarke's **Hustler** out of Seaford on Friday and they came back to the dock with two barrels of good sized boston mackerel.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that Lee Erickson fished the Coast Guard Station and Swift Creek with sandeels and got 14 fluke which resulted in 7 keepers, all on outgoing. Big flounders are around, but spotty, running up to 3 pounds and are in many places all over the bays and creeks. 6 blackfish were taken on open bottom in Fundy Bay, as were sea bass on sandworm tipped flounder rigs.

Merrick Marine Supplies reports mackerel 180 degrees out of the inlet, 65 feet of water, with weakfish beginning to do their thing off Ocean Beach. Heckscher is spotty for both flounders and weaks. Best flounder action is at Squaw Island, where Frank of Merrick Marine on Saturday took 115 flatties up to 1¼ pounds on worms and mussel chum [in one tide 5 rods) at pole 15.

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BY FRED GUARDINEER

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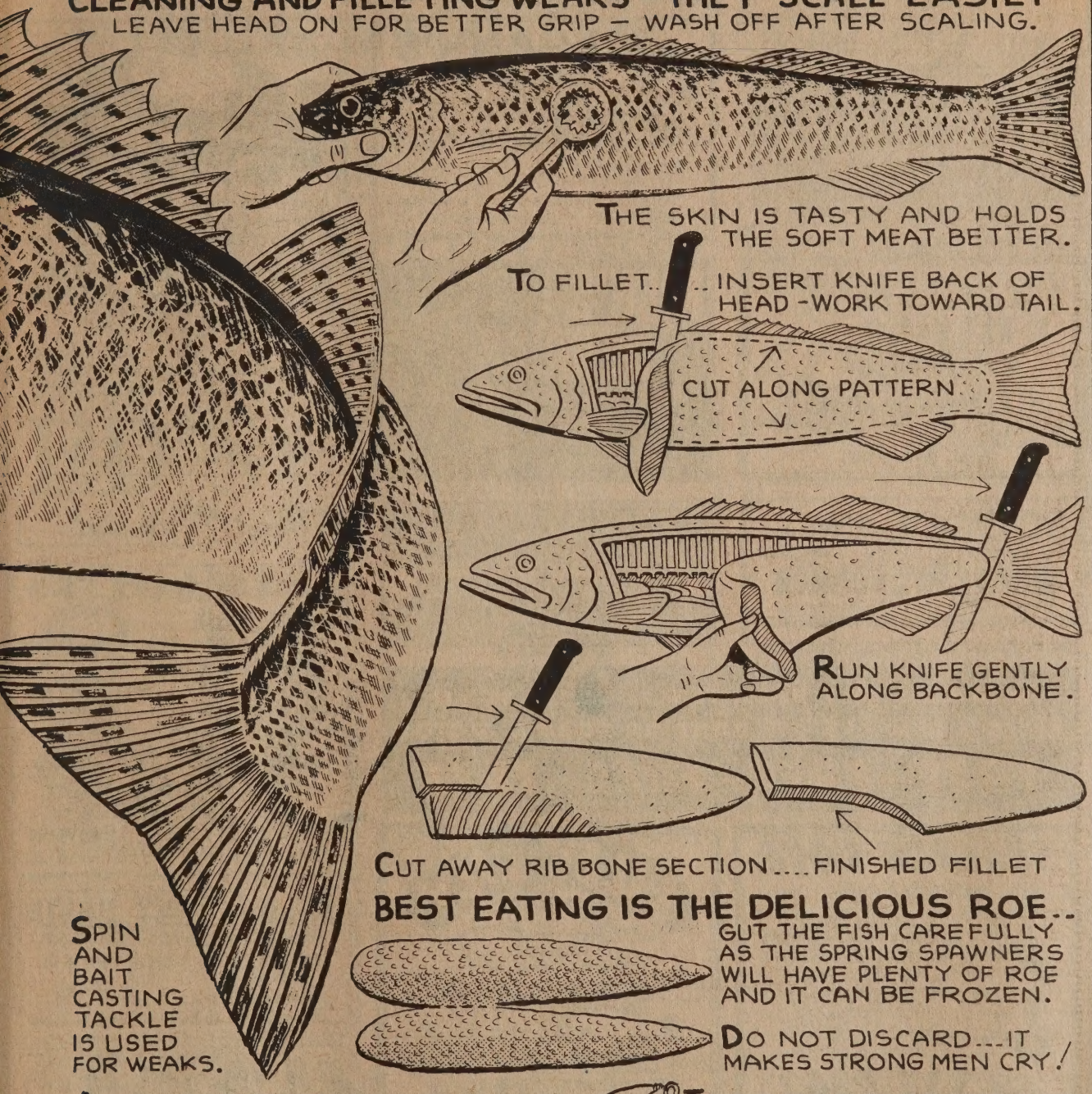
LEAVE HEAD ON FOR BETTER GRIP — WASH OFF AFTER SCALING.



THE SKIN IS TASTY AND HOLDS THE SOFT MEAT BETTER.

TO FILLET.. .. INSERT KNIFE BACK OF HEAD - WORK TOWARD TAIL.

CUT ALONG PATTERN

RUN KNIFE GENTLY ALONG BACKBONE.

CUT AWAY RIB BONE SECTION .... FINISHED FILLET

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BEST EATING IS THE DELICIOUS ROE..

GUT THE FISH CAREFULLY AS THE SPRING SPAWNERS WILL HAVE PLENTY OF ROE AND IT CAN BE FROZEN.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Hook Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle reports flounder in Swift and Long Creeks on sandworms, bloods and mussel chumming very necessary. Mackerel are just outside the Bell buoy, ½ mile offshore. Weaks are spotty with flounders being taken on sandworms in long and swift creeks taking occasional weakfish.

Frank's Marina and Rowboat Station tells us that Saturday, Mike Brandine and Nick Slozinski had 6 fluke in Jones Inlet on squid, incoming tide. These are all keepers, with 3 additional shorts being released. Jeff and Bruce had 20 flounder averaging 1½ pounds in Swift Creek on bloodworms and mussel chum on Saturday on the first of the incoming. Bob at **Hook Line and Sinker** asked us to announce that starting the weekend of May 1, the Bay Gull will resume sailing, with 2 boats this year covering Jones Inlet and Zach's Bay. The Bay Gull, the south shore's floating Deli and Bait Station will this year be serving hot snacks in addition to its other items. Also new this year is Bob's Beer license, so that you will be able to get a cold brew to sip between fish.

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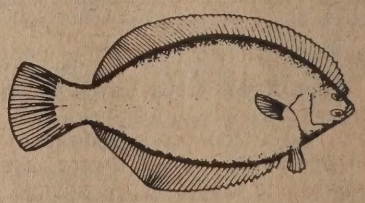

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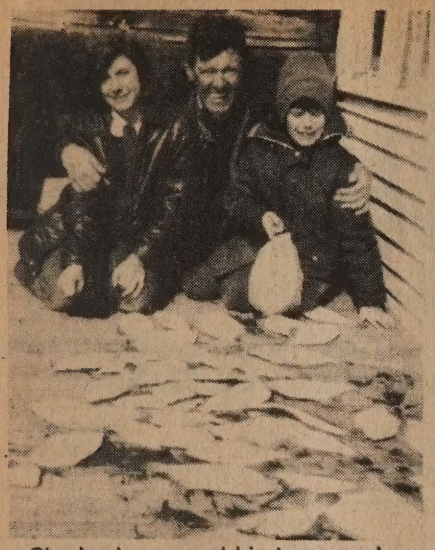


Charles Lorme and his two grandchildren caught these 47 flounder at Capt. Eddies Fishing Station.

with the body of fish close and hungry. Loads of full sacks were taken south of the inlet, with only a 20 minute ride necessary. These are big Boston Mackerel. Go get them while they are here.

The **Aloma II** is also working out on the mackerel schools while Captain John on the **Aloma** is doing his hook act on the bottom species.

The **Captain Al** reports that he is slaughtering the mackerel all week , and that they ae in close. On Sunday the boat was back at 1 P.M. with sacks of macks. This was reported by the **Poop Deck Dock**.

The **Captain Hall** reports good flounder fishing all week, with 34 flatties as hi-hook count for Wednesday. Mackerel fishing was good on Saturday, with good size fish being within easy striking distance.

The **Captain Lou II**, reports Edna at **Poop Deck Dock** has been enjoying some good days of flounder fishing this week and weekend along with some fair days.

Capt. Dave Pigott of the **Lucky Strike II** called to tell us that his charter took almost 100 flounder on Saturday in the Freeport area. All fish were taken on worms and ranged to 1¾ pounds. Best tide was outgoing.

L.I.F. staff member Scott Simons took Saturday off to try his hand with the mackerel on friend George Gehrhardt's private boat the "Joyride". Along with friends Bob Ochsenreiter and Bob Stenz (who is known for his expertise and innovations with green-dyed clams when all else fails) they found the mackerel fishing tough going with the private fleet 220 degrees from Jones Inlet in 70 to 75 feet of water. Only 31 mackerel were taken by the four anglers in the six hours fishing time, with double-headers few and far between. The fish seemed to be running around in small pods. They also took two whiting, a herring and 10 ling, many on the green dyed clams.

Jim Cleary and Bill Simons and friends reported a good catch of flounder they took during the week at the west entrance of Zach's Bay on Jim's boat "Extra Dry". They took 50 flounder, big fish, all keepers.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports some fluke in the bay now, try the Loop Bridge area with sandeels. Flounder fishing continues good, average 25 to 30 flounder per knowledgeable boat. Mr. George Gruber pulled a 2 pound flounder out of Swift Creek using worms and mussel chum. Blackfish are at the bridges and Anthony's has the fiddlers they love.

Angler Ken Melnick requested that we announce that he accidently left a brand new Coleman Lantern on the Crab Meadow Jetty a few Saturday Nights back. He is offering a reward for its return. Please call Ken at 516-543-2863 after 6 P.M.

LONG BEACH

Good size flounder continue to be caught so said Tom at Long Beach Sports Marina. On Saturday, Tom had all 18 boats out and the most productive areas were Duck Point and Woodsborough Channel.

ISLAND PARK

Beckman's Tackle in Lynbrook said the flounder fishing started to pick up on Tuesday and continued a steady climb thru Saturday. Worms and mussels are still the bait mostly at Duck Point. Fluke have been taken by flounder fishermen at Duck Point. A few weaks were taken at Jones Inlet. Bait and method is not known.

The **Commodore** reports good flounder action all week in Reynold's Channel with worms and a stirred up bottom being necessary. A private boat had 9 keeper fluke on sandeels at buoy 17 in Reynold's Channel. Also 3 short fluke were taken during the week.

Shown here is the Bent Rod Fishing Club, from Flushing with part of the 131 flounder caught on Easter Sunday aboard the Lucky Strike III. The flounder ranged from ¾ to 2½ lbs.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports excellent flounder fishing over the weekend. Along with this good fishing comes reports of blackfishing at the Meadowbrook and Long Creek Bridges. These are 2 to 3 pound blacks that are being taken on fiddlers. Fluke have been by both flounder fishermen and those going after the fluke. The fluke are only just over keepers to 17 inches but it is a start.

On Saturday local wrecks were fished by the **Marie III** for mackerel and everybody loaded up on them. Bottom fishing was then tried and a lot of sea bass were taken. There was two sea bass that weighed 2½ and 3 pounds respectively. The blackfish were disappointing as they were too small to keep. Very few bergalls were encountered.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Yellow Shed Bait and Tackle** reports all the bridges in the bay have some kind of fishing. Flounder are at the north and south channel bridges and the north RR trestle as well as the Silver Hole. Sandworms or fiddler crabs fished on the slack at the South Channel or Marine Parkway bridges have caught blackfish. These have ranged in size from throwbacks to six pounds. There has been a good showing of weakfish on the Rockaway end of the Marine Parkway bridge. The weaks are in deep water and are best fished drifting with worms and squid strips. Striped bass have been taken in various places in the bay but John said they are mostly shorts or just keepers.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

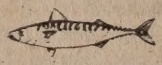
Bay End Dock reports good flounder off Manhatten Beach at buoy #1. George said the flounders went to 2 pounds and were taken on mussels and worms on the last of the outgoing. The Marine Parkway bridge and the Rockaway jetties have blacks which are being taken on clams mostly. The Marine Parkway bridge has had some nice keepers sized striped bass taken on worms.

Salvo's Bait and Tackle said the flounder fishing has been so-so but other fishing is taking up the slack. Striped bass are coming in steady and more of them from Korvetts to the Veranzanno Bridge. Boat fishermen are taking them at Hofman Island and the Verranzano Bridge. Worm drifting or small bucktails are best. Blacks of 1 to 3 pounds are being taken from Coney Island to the Verranzano on worms, clams or fiddlers. Fluke are starting to hit on worms but there are not too many keepers now.

Kenny Salvo and Joe Jr. of **Salvo's**

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

8 AM ★ DOROTHY B ★ 8 AM



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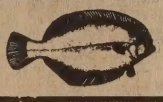

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sailed Tuesday on the **Peconic Queen** using Salvo's diamond jigs. They took 31 pollack to 38 pounds.

Captain Kevin of the **Dorothy B** reports fair mackerel fishing on Saturday and Sunday at the NC buoy and though the water was rough early in the day Sunday, the macks were definitely there. Catches were GREAT during the week, just like old times. As fast as you can pull them in you filled your sack.

Captain Butch on the **Zephyr** reports good catches of blacks, sea bass and ling on open bottom and wrecks, blacks going to 6 pounds. On Thursday, 10 blacks in the 5 pound range graced his decks.

Capt. Fred of the **Amberjack IV** reports good mackerel fishing with Friday and Saturday being great. Biggest going to 2 pounds. Action was southeast of the BA and southeast of buoy 4. Also taken on a mackerel rig was a 1 pound blue.

The **Big Mohawk II** was out 25 miles south of the jetty on Saturday, fishing the Immaculada area with the Four Corners Fishing Club from Staten Island. Capt. Tony said they had to work for the fish, which ended up as a few dozen—full bags according to the man. On Sunday, the Co-op City anglers were out, fishing 4½ miles east of Ambrose and they had good catches but could have been better if the weather had been more conducive to staying at the rail. Fish are still coming up from the south. Tony still has some weekday dates open for charters.

Captain Harold Wreggie of **the chief** has been doing a job on the mackerel and the whiting for his fares, hitting the whiting in good numbers and sizes between schools of macks.

Captain Nick of the **Blue Sea II** reports excellent whiting and mackerel fishing, with the whiting taking bait or mackerel jigs on the bottom. The whiting are from 1½ to 3 pounds and he is fishing from the BA to the tower. The macks are going in the 2 pound range.

The **Captain Dom** (formerly the Mary) will be back in the water by this weekend set to take you out bottom fishing. The boat has just been spruced up for the season in the shipyard.

The **Flamingo II** tells of excellent mackerel fishing during the week and Friday, with Saturday good though more spread out and not as easy a pick as Monday through Friday. On Sunday, he got fish but the wind and rain brought an early end to a tough day. Those that fished, caught good sized boston macks. There is good ling and whiting action still around. Captain Walter will be after sea bass and whiting next, after this mackerel run.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports the flounder are still a steady pick at Great Kills Park and other usual flounder spots. Striped bass is just trying to start and everyone is just itching to try for them. About ½ dozen striped bass are taken on each tide. Jack Sherwood weighed in one taken on a worm that went 11 pounds 7 ounces. The bunker nets have been taking a few weakfish and fluke.

Point Lookout Island Park

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End of Railroad Place, ISLAND PARK

Andy Cariello with his first catch of flounder caught aboard a friend's boat in Jamaica Bay. Subscriber Club Photo.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Art White Bait Shop reports that the flounder fishing is just great. They have been had at Crab Creek and at the Oyster Factory. Art said the weaks were being taken in the traps but as yet no one is fishing for them.

Capt. Richie Jensen of the **Wilhelric** said he is fishing Rams Head and Gardiners Bay. The flounder are big with many going to 3 to 3½ pounds. Blackfish are being taken while flounder fishing. These are fish of 5 and 6 pounds. Capt. Jensen of the **Wilhelric** said do not delay to go flounder fishing as the weakfish are coming.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil at **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** told us of the first weak of the season. it was taken by John Gray of Brooklyn. He took this 6¼ pound weak using mussel while flounder fishing in the South Race. They are not blackfishing at Nassau Point. About 3 or 4 per boat is taken on skimmers or worms. Porgies of about 2 pounds were taken at buoy 30.

JAMESPORT

The weaks have just started according to Frank at **Jamesport Bait and Tackle**. They were only about a dozen taken so far on Saturday, but the biggest one was 6½ pounds. These were taken west of Robins Island on Salty Dogs or Squid. Flounder fishing in Aquebogue at buoy 9 has been good. Mussel chum is a must.

RIVERHEAD

Riverhead Marine Supply reports the mackerel have been taken about 200 yards outside Shinnecock Canal. Some

Michael Gioz of Huntington with one of the 44 flounder he and two others caught on the west side of Jessup's Neck. All of the flounders weighed more then 2 lbs. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

weakfish are coming thru the canal. Flounders are fair to moderate in Flanders and Peconic Bays.

ROCKY POINT

Nick's Bait and Tackle reports some 17 and 19 inch striped bass have been taken from the beach along with flounder and black fish. All this is on sandworms or skimmer clams. The mackerel have been in and out but not close enough to ge taken from the beach.

Ken at **Angler's Den** reports that there is really great blackfishing at the North Shore's Rocky Point, Cedar Beach and Miller Place, from the surf using sandworms, outgoing working best. Saturday, the mackerel broke loose at Cedar's buoy 11 and Port Jefferson area. Jose Santigo of Port Jeff nailed a 6.5 pound black on a sandworm from a boat. Some 8 pound bass have been taken on sandworm intended for blackfish on double strength flounder hooks from these same beaches.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

With the exception of the rainy days the fishing has been pretty good according to **Dick's Sporting Goods**. Blacks are along the rocky areas of the beach. A few sea porgies have been taken and flounders are holding up well.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports the mackerel are all over from buoy 11 to Cranes Neck. Blackfish to 10 pounds have been taken at Old Field Point on fresh skimmers. Old Field also has flounders of 1 to 2½ pounds on worms and mussels. Striped bass taken at the power plant on worms and small bucktails.

Capt. John Fischer of the **Betty W** gave us a day by day rundown as follows: Monday and Tuesday fair black and flounder which slowed down on Wednesday and Thursday. It improved as Friday afternoon with the blacks. On Saturday the Anglers Anonymous of Bronx had blacks to 11 pounds with the flounders. THey finished the day with mackerel. On Sunday the macks really struck from Mt. Sinai to Port Jeff entrance.

NORTHPORT

Pete at **Greenlawn Sports** called to say that the striped bass slowed with the hot weather. Flounder are available still but you must chum heavily. Pete said he felt that the most interesting fishing was for trout in the Crab Meadow Creek. They are 16 to 18 inches long and taking live killies. Although these are sea run trout a fresh water license may be needed.

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The Long Island
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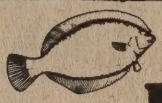
GREENPORT



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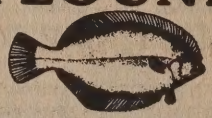

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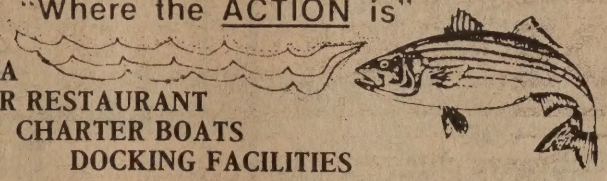

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MONTAUK

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(2) FINDING THE EXACT LOCATION OF ALL THE BEST WRECKS (NOT JUST THE EASY ANDREA DORIA) IS A VALUABLE ART AND A PRECISE SKILL REQUIRING THE USE OF SONAR EQUIPMENT, WHICH OUR COMPETITION DOES NOT HAVE.

(3) Since our competition has chosen to schedule their "wreck" trip on the same day as ours, but LEAVING just after we do, we have decided to postpone our scheduled May 2nd & May 23rd trips for one day, and will be SAILING MONDAY NIGHTS, MAY 3rd & MAY 24th AT 9PM

(4) WE WISH OUR COMPETITION ALL THE LUCK THEY'LL NEED IN FINDING THESE WRECKS OTHER THAN THE ANDREA DORIA.

ALL PASSENGERS BOOKED ON MAY 2nd & MAY 23rd TRIPS, PLS. CALL TO CONFIRM RES. FOR MAY 3rd & MAY 24th

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~~Leaving May 23, 9PM~~ SOLD OUT
~~Returning May 24, 9PM~~

Next Trip June 6, 9PM
Ret. June 7, 9PM (Going Fast)
Fare $45 • Dep. $20 • 50 Pass. Limit
Send Dep to: Viking Fleet, Box 497, Montauk, NY 11954

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5AM EVERY DAY GIANT COD POLLACK BLACKS

STILL A FEW OPENINGS FOR MAY 3 & MAY 24. CALL TO RESERVE & CONFIRM!

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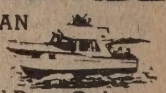

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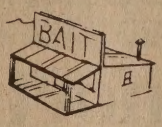

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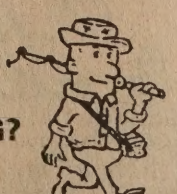

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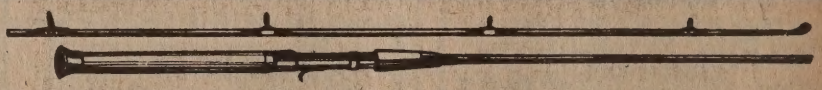

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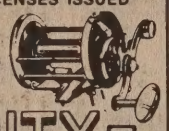

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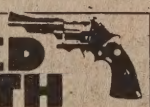

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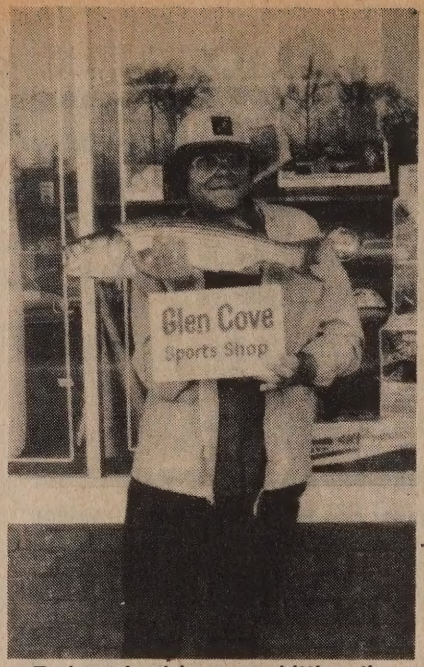

Early striped bass are hitting the Glen Cove area. This early bass weighed 6 lb. and was caught by Skipper De Bari on an Alou eel. Photo courtesy of Glen Cove Sports Shop.

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HUNTINGTON

Ronnies Bait and Tackle reports the flounder are in Huntington Bay, Sand City, and Huntington Bay Club. Fish are from ½ to 1½ pounds and biting on sandworms with mussel chum. Colahan Beach had some blacks to 8 pounds being caught on sandworms and clam. Ronnies said striped bass slowed at Lilco. He said to try sandworms at two hours before and two hours after high tide.

The **Ever Ready Fleet** reports that Mike Senyk was hi-hook on Saturday with 45 flounder, while Leroy Green Jr. of Brentwood took the pool with a 5½ pound blackfish. The Ever Ready will not be sailing this Saturday as an open boat. Capt. Pete had over 500 fish for the weekend.

GLEN COVE

John at **Glen Cove Sports** said the fishing report is mackerel, mackerel, mackerel and mackerel. These fish range from the Glen Cove Breakwater around to Peacock Point and are fairly close about ¾ of a mile offshore. Small Krocodiles, diamond jigs and various tinker tubes all work with equal success on these fish. The largest concentrations are at sun-up but theses fish can be had all day. Smallest of these run about 2 pounds. Light tackle enthusiasts should take note that these fish readily take lures and that their size makes them good scrappers. Striped bass worm trolling is in solid now says John and should be done at a very slow speed with the double hook worm rig. Blackfish are also in and reports of weaks in the Oyster Bay area portend the coming of these weakfish. Our old friend flounder are still to be had in quantities previously caught.

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JEEP—See Suffolk's Largest Selection at our new location. FREE this month—SOFT TOP on all CJ's. 10% Parts Discount to all LIF Card Holders. CARSON AND SCUDDER—AMC Jeep (516) HA 7-0270. 1220 E. Jericho Turnpike. Huntington. Corner Dear Park Avenue.

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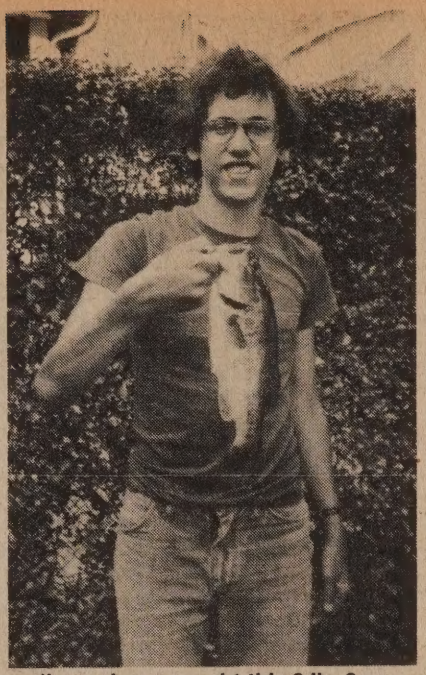


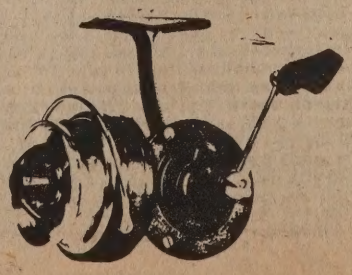
Jim valvano caught this 3 lb. 2 oz. largemouth bass on a rebel plug in Lake Musconetcong. Subscriber Club Photo.

PORT WASHINGTON

Lots of flounder are in Manhasset Bay according to **Moreland's Bait and Tackle**. Worm bait and mussel chum are a must. The rocky areas have some blacks that are taking worm. Striped bass activity is still slow. Maybe the mackerel which were reported in Hempstead Harbor will enliven the bass action.

CITY ISLAND

John's Gun and Tackle in the Bronx, said the flounder fishing is pretty good at Sands Point and Oyster Bay. John said chumming is very important for the flounder. On Saturday, quite a few blacks of from 2 to 4 pounds were taken in the rocky areas around Orchard Beach and City Island. They are taking clam, worm or fiddler. The Turtle Cove is doing very well with the striped bass though there are a lot of shorts. Early and late tides are best fished with the Split-Tail Rebel. John said he has a few openings for his June 6th Quincy trip.



ADVANCED WEAKFISH

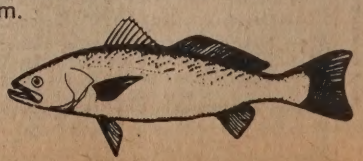
(Continued from page 9.)

thirty weakfish silently swimming on the surface with their dorsal fins sticking out of the water. When a fish is hooked, they can only do one thing - run! The weak can't dog it the way he often does in deep water - in two or three feet of water, they make sizzling runs "just like in the movies." This great evening weakfishing in Great South Bay has another thing going for it - few anglers know about it! Let's just hope that no one ruins a good thing by shooting his mouth off.

DEPRESSION OR TROUGH. (Diagram 4.) A depression or trough is simply a deep hole with a shallower, uniform depth surrounding it. An excellent example is the hole known locally as "the hole" about midway between the Fire Island Lighthouse and the Coast Guard Station. It's about thirty feet deep and easily found with a simple flasher/sounder, or on a calm day by the rips and white water above it. Other depressions are easily found by simply studying a nautical chart and looking for a sudden increase in depth. As the moving water of the current reaches a depression, the water must rapidly run downhill, creating a turbulence that renders baitfish caught up in it helpless. They are excellent formations to find big weakfish, particularly when the summer doldrums set in and the large tide-runners seek deeper water to escape the boat traffic and warmer water of the flats. Best method of taking these fish is on bait or deep jigging. (see part three of this series next week.)

CHANNEL NARROWING. (Diagram 5.(Whenever a channel suddenly narrows, the funneling effect of the water being forced through a confined area creates a faster current and turbulence. The weakfish will lie at the narrow end of this funnel to feed on the baitfish that come tumbling their way. However, when the direction of the current changes and the water moves from the narrow opening to the widening part of the funnel, this turbulence is drastically diminished and the area will not be productive. Channel narrowings are easily found by looking for the black and red buoys that mark the channels in the bays. Look for a black and red buoy close together that are adjacent to a set of buoys that are relatively far apart, as shown in diagram 5.

In part three next week we'll go into the various artificial lures that will take weakfish and how and when to work them.



TIDE TABLES

ON →		SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY		AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
4/29	THURSDAY	8:40	8:51	10:15	10:23	12:05	12:29	—	12:13
4/30	FRIDAY	9:16	9:25	10:52	10:58	12:18	12:40	12:23	12:50
5/1	SATURDAY	9:54	9:59	11:30	11:35	12:42	1:08	12:59	1:29
5/2	SUNDAY	10:32	10:36	—	12:10	1:17	1:45	1:38	2:09
5/3	MONDAY	11:13	11:16	12:14	12:56	1:57	2:26	2:18	2:51
5/4	TUESDAY	—	12:01	12:56	1:42	2:40	3:11	3:03	3:38
5/5	WEDNESDAY	12:04	12:51	1:44	2:38	3:28	4:02	3:54	4:31
5/6	THURSDAY	12:56	1:47	2:43	3:34	4:22	4:57	4:49	5:27

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
4/29	5:00	11:30	5:25	11:55
4/30	5:40	:	6:10	12:20
5/1	6:30	12:35	6:50	1:10
5/2	7:25	1:40	7:50	2:00
5/3	8:15	2:35	8:45	3:00
5/4	9:15	3:30	9:40	3:55
5/5	10:10	4:20	10:30	4:45
5/6	11:00	5:05	11:15	5:45

PHASES OF THE MOON

5/29	5/7	5/13	5/20
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/5	5:51	8:03
5/15	5:39	8:14
5/30	5:28	8:28

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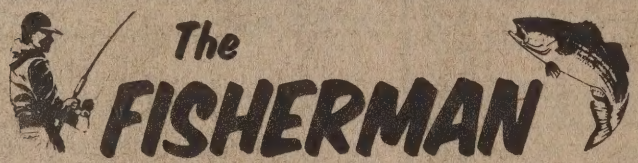

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YOUR CHOICE OF—
Pound Test (*Circle One*)

Allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery of line

6 10 12 17 20 30

Color: (*Check one*)

☐ Clear/Blue ☐ Golden ☐ Orange

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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Color: ☐ Clear/Blue ☐ Golden ☐ Orange

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